

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN HUNTED



NICK SPENCER
HUMBERTO RAMOS
GERARDO SANDOVAL
RYAN OTTLEY

*"Nick Spencer delivers
his most gripping
Spidey tale yet."*

— ComicsVerse

MARVEL



After leaving a tense dinner with Curt Conners' family in their underground home — teenaged Billy resents his father for making him hide his reptilian appearance — Peter Parker ran into an even more tense situation! Mercenaries Taskmaster and Black Ant had chased Aleksei Sytsevich (Rhino) right into the restaurant where May Parker was eating! As the building collapsed, Spider-Man protected Aunt May rather than save Aleksei from capture, knowing the decision would haunt him.

He doesn't yet know that Rhino was delivered to Kraven the Hunter. When Kraven hasn't been attacking poachers and their guides in his African territory, Sergei Kravinoff has been working with Arcade on a mysterious venture — with their sights set on a launch site a little closer to home...



SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

HUNTED

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COVER ART RYAN OTTLEY & NATHAN FAIRBAIRN







YOU COME INTO THE JUNGLE TO CHALLENGE IT. TO TAKE SOMETHING FROM IT.

AND YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE ENTITLED, BECAUSE OF YOUR **WEALTH** AND YOUR **POWER** IN YOUR OWN DOMAIN. BUT YOU ARE NOT THERE. YOU ARE **HERE**. AND HERE, YOU ARE NOTHING--



--NOTHING BUT FLESH AND BLOOD.

NOOOO!
I DON'T WANNA DIE!



STOP. I AM NOT HERE TO KILL YOU.

WAIT--
Y-YOU'RE NOT?

OF COURSE NOT. YOU SEE-- I UNDERSTAND WHAT **DRIVES** YOU TO THIS PLACE. WHAT YOU DREAM OF WHEN YOU THINK OF IT.



REAL POWER. THE KIND THAT COMES WITH CONQUERING ANOTHER LIVING THING. TO KILL IS TO UNDERSTAND THE ENORMITY OF LIFE. AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN.

YOU HAVE THE BLOOD OF THOSE WHO KILLED TO **SURVIVE** COURAGING THROUGH YOUR VEINS, AFTER ALL.

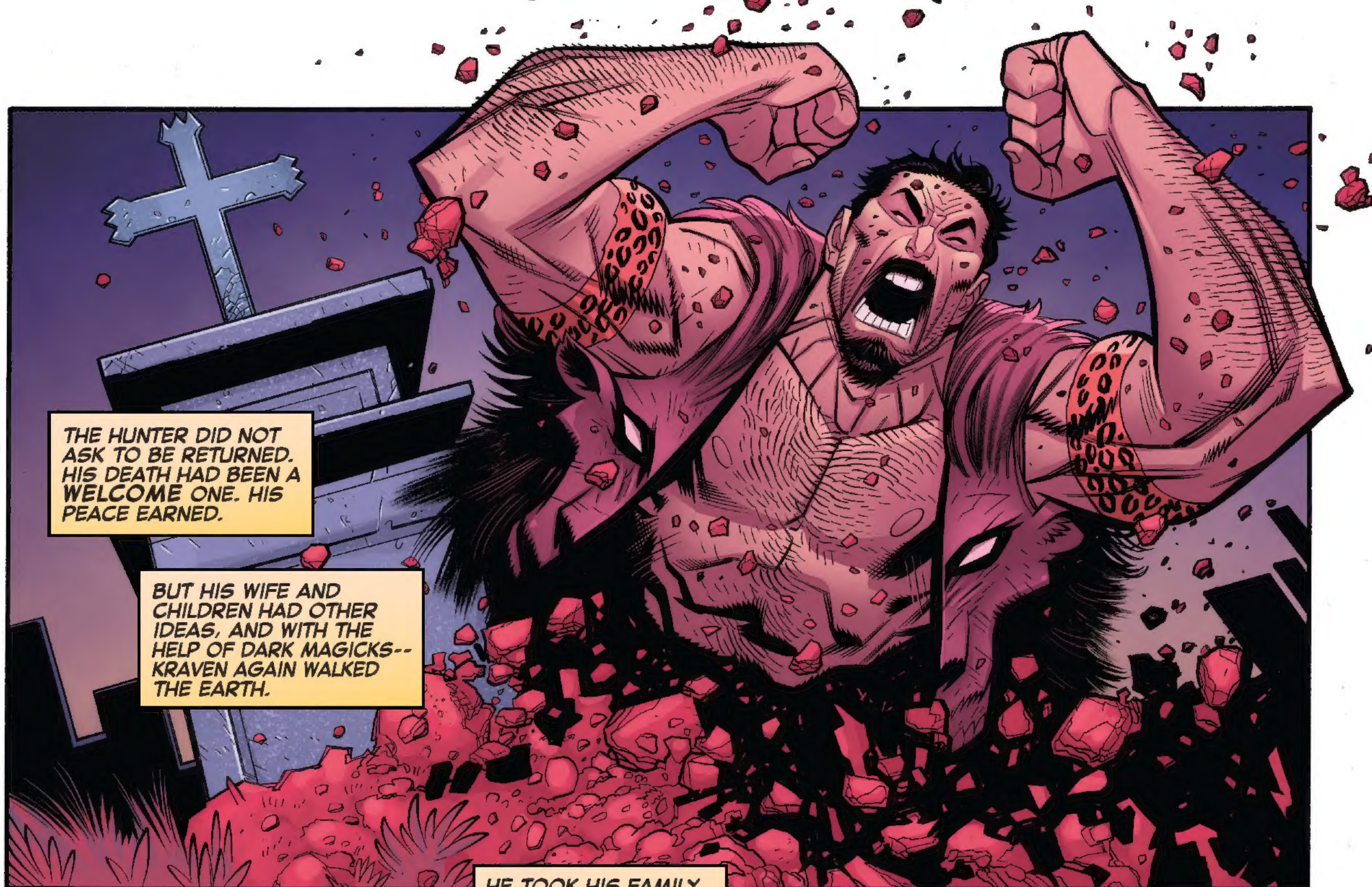


HOW COULD YOU **RESIST** THE PULL OF YOUR OWN NATURE? YOU ARE CAPABLE OF THAT SAME **STRENGTH**. YOU MERELY NEED THE RIGHT **GUIDE**.

SO, NO, I DO NOT WISH TO KILL YOU, MY FRIEND--



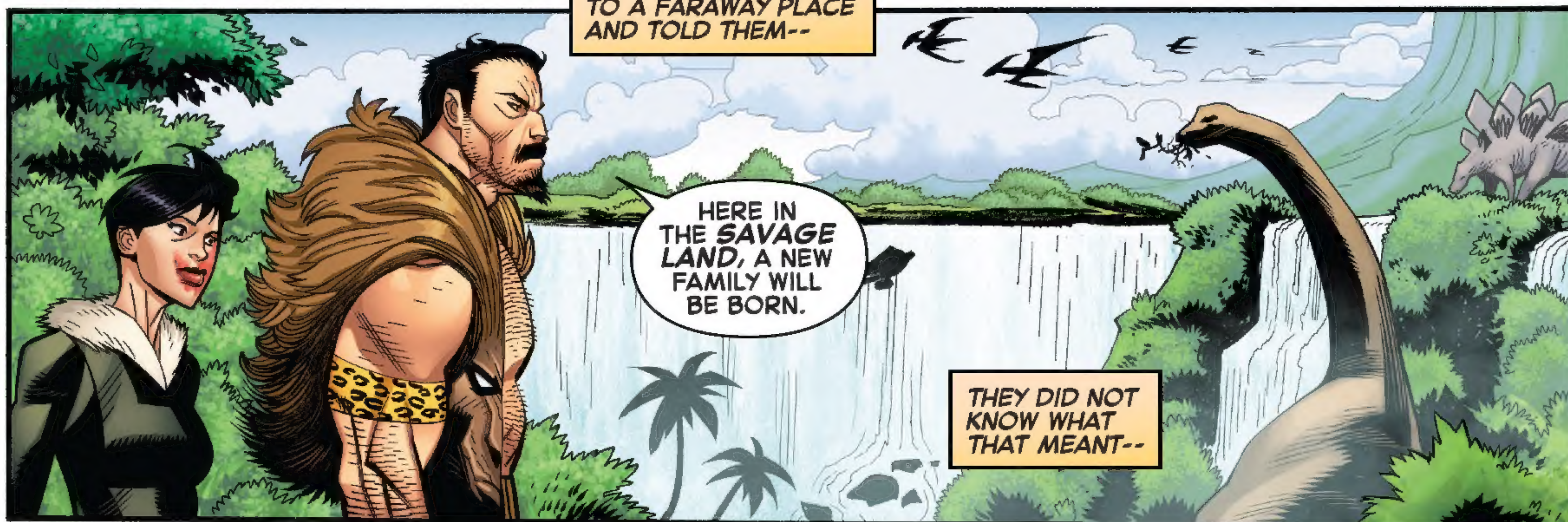
--I WISH TO MAKE YOU A **HUNTER**.



THE HUNTER DID NOT ASK TO BE RETURNED. HIS DEATH HAD BEEN A WELCOME ONE. HIS PEACE EARNED.

BUT HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN HAD OTHER IDEAS, AND WITH THE HELP OF DARK MAGICKS-- KRAVEN AGAIN WALKED THE EARTH.

HE TOOK HIS FAMILY TO A FARAWAY PLACE AND TOLD THEM--



HERE IN THE SAVAGE LAND, A NEW FAMILY WILL BE BORN.

THEY DID NOT KNOW WHAT THAT MEANT--



--AND THEY WOULD NOT SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO LEARN.



BY THE END OF THAT FIRST DAY, KRAVEN HAD ONLY ONE HEIR LEFT--

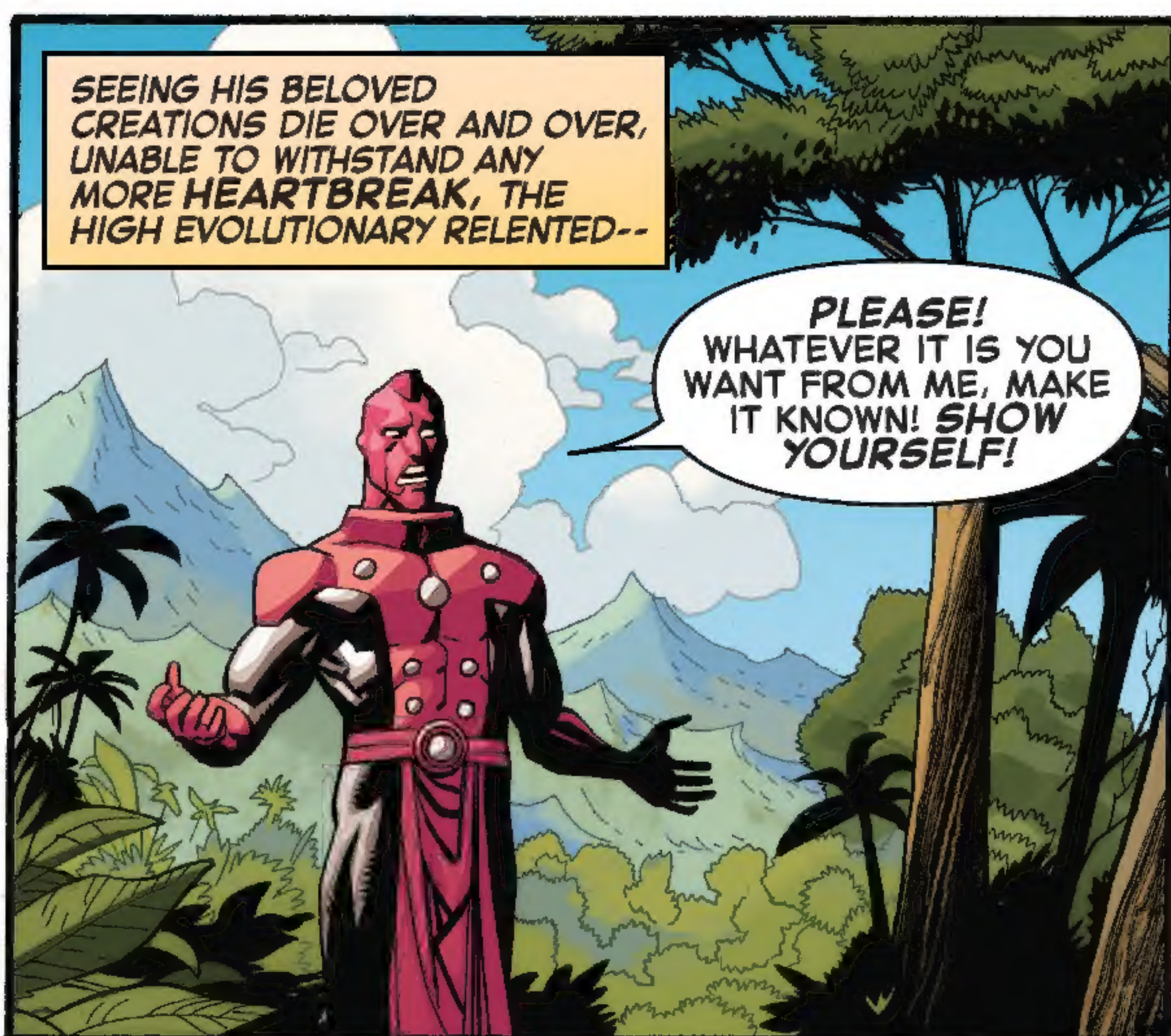


--HIS DAUGHTER ANA. BUT EVEN SHE DID NOT KNOW HIS PLAN.



THE FIRST TO LEARN
WAS THE HIGH
EVOLUTIONARY.

FOR MONTHS, KRAVEN
CAME IN THE NIGHT,
SLAUGHTERING HIS ANI-MEN
RELENTLESSLY. NO SECURITY,
NO DEFENSES, WERE
IMPENETRABLE TO THE HUNTER.



SEEING HIS BELOVED
CREATIONS DIE OVER AND OVER,
UNABLE TO WITHSTAND ANY
MORE HEARTBREAK, THE
HIGH EVOLUTIONARY RELENTED--

PLEASE!
WHATEVER IT IS YOU
WANT FROM ME, MAKE
IT KNOWN! SHOW
YOURSELF!

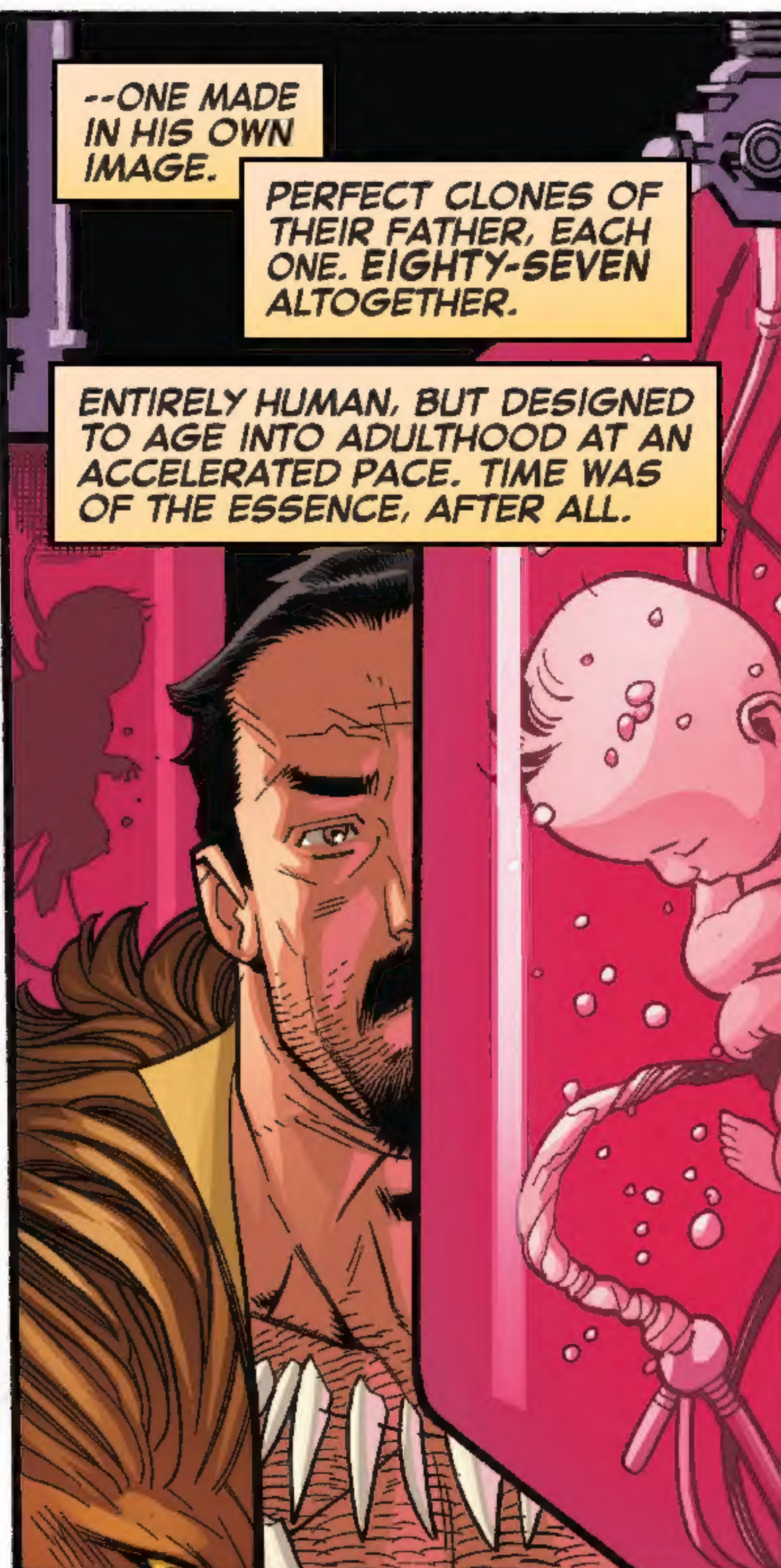


HE GAVE KRAVEN
WHAT HE WANTED--



--SONS.

THIS WAS THE
NEW FAMILY THE
HUNTER HAD
PROMISED--



--ONE MADE
IN HIS OWN
IMAGE.

PERFECT CLONES OF
THEIR FATHER, EACH
ONE. EIGHTY-SEVEN
ALTOGETHER.

ENTIRELY HUMAN, BUT DESIGNED
TO AGE INTO ADULTHOOD AT AN
ACCELERATED PACE. TIME WAS
OF THE ESSENCE, AFTER ALL.



WHEN HIS ONLY DAUGHTER
LEARNED THE TRUTH, SHE
LEFT IN DISGUST.

THIS IS A
DISGRACE! A
DISHONOR TO OUR
HOUSE, FATHER!
IF YOU ARE TO
DO THIS--

--THEN I
RENOUCE
OUR NAME!
I WILL BE A
KRAVINOFF NO
LONGER!

BUT FOR KRAVEN, HE
FINALLY HAD THE WORTHY
HEIRS HE HAD ALWAYS
DESIRED--REFLECTIONS
OF HIS PUREST UNTAMED
SELF, NEVER TAINTED BY
THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

THEY PLAYED
TOGETHER...



THEY TRAINED
TOGETHER...



AND THEY GREW
INTO MEN
TOGETHER.

FOR THEM, KRAVEN
FELT PRIDE. AND
YES, LOVE.



BUT THIS NEW
KIND OF PEACE
WAS JUST AS
FLEETING AS
THE LAST.



THE SONS OF KRAVEN
HAD A DESTINY, AFTER
ALL. THEY WERE BORN
TO BE HUNTERS.

TO EACH WAS GIVEN
A MISSION, A
QUEST, A TROPHY.



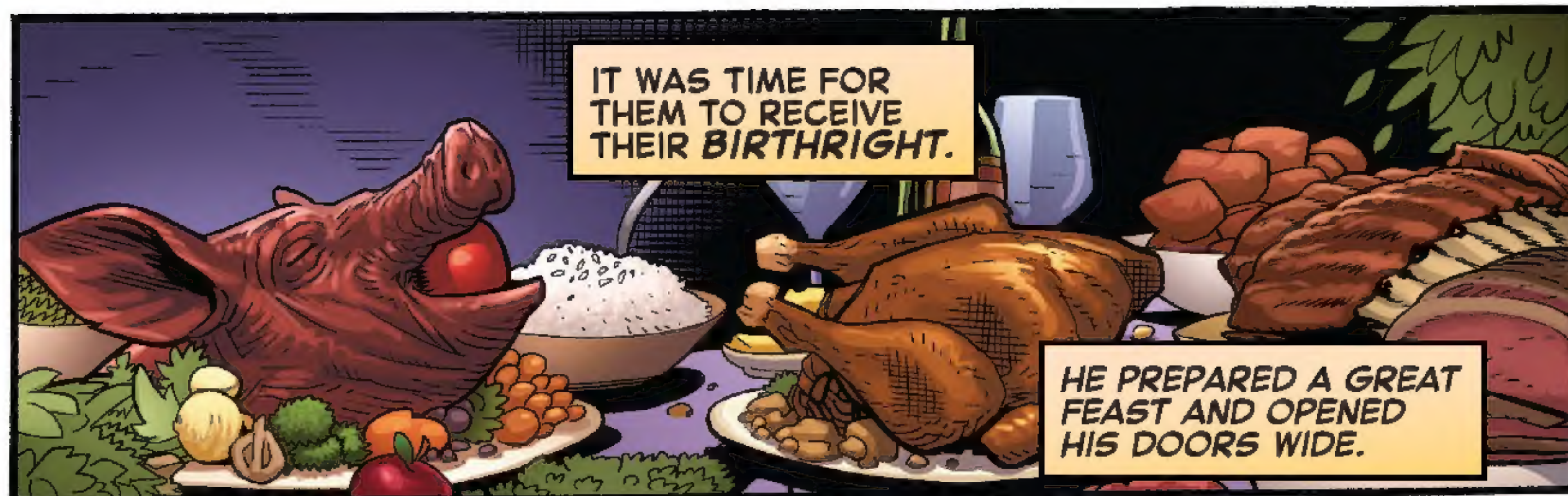
ALONE FOR THE FIRST
TIME, EACH WENT TO
THE ENDS OF THE EARTH
TO FULFILL THEIR DUTY
AND TAKE THE FINAL
STEP IN THEIR JOURNEY
TO ADULTHOOD.



THEY WOULD
PROVE
THEMSELVES
WORTHY OF
HIS NAME.

KRAVEN HIMSELF HAD A DIFFERENT TASK--
REBUILDING HIS
FORTUNE, RECLAIMING
HIS TERRITORIES.

HE WORKED TIRELESSLY TO
MAKE A NEW KINGDOM.
AND WHEN HE WAS
FINISHED, HE CALLED FOR
HIS SONS TO RETURN.



IT WAS TIME FOR
THEM TO RECEIVE
THEIR **BIRTHRIGHT**.

HE PREPARED A GREAT
FEAST AND OPENED
HIS DOORS WIDE.



SOON THEY
WOULD ALL BE
REUNITED--

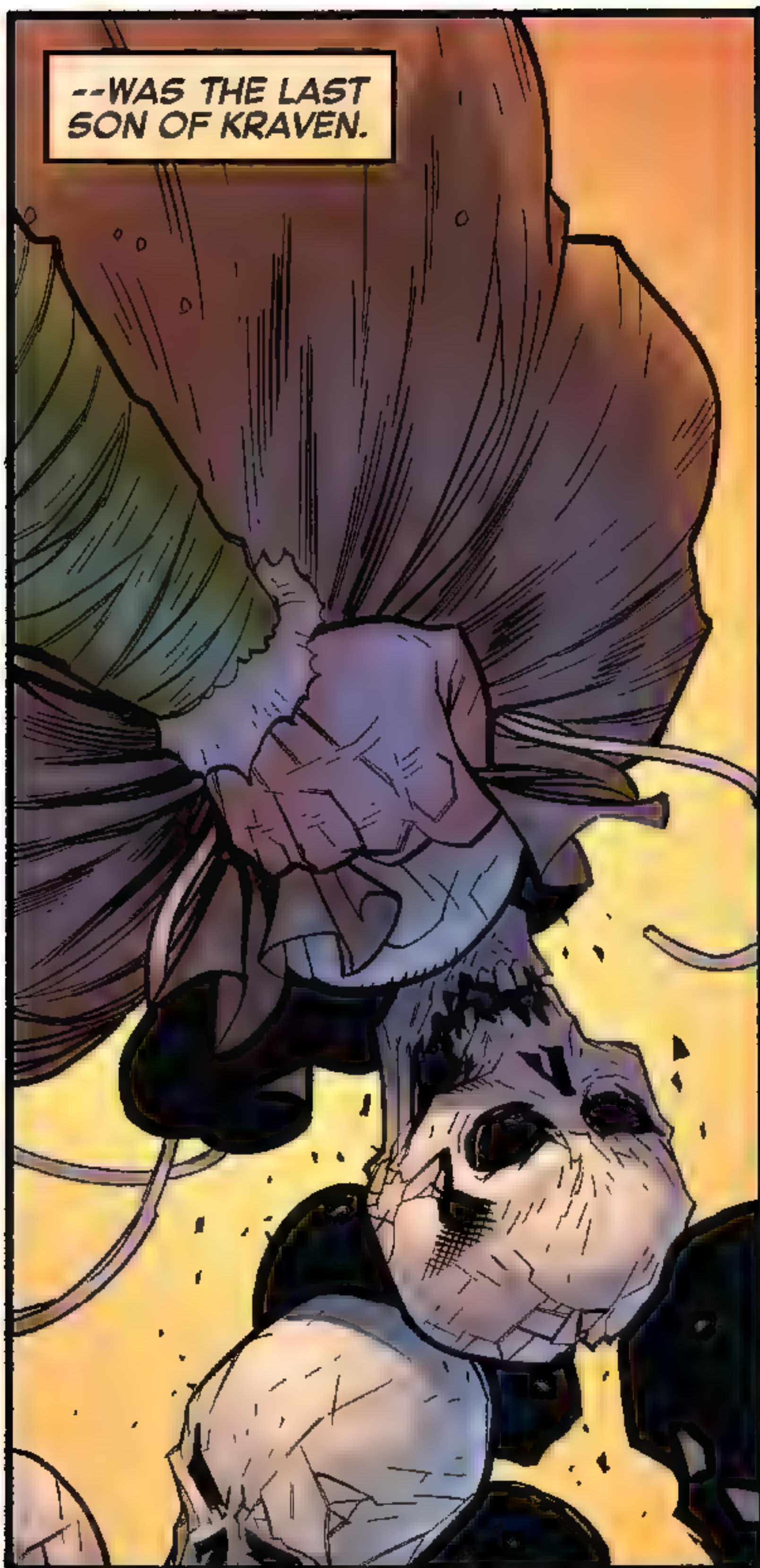


--EACH AND
EVERY ONE
OF THEM.



WH-WHERE
ARE YOUR
BROTHERS?

BUT HE ALREADY
KNEW. THE MAN
WHO STOOD
BEFORE HIM--



--WAS THE LAST
SON OF KRAVEN.



MY...MY
CHILDREN--
THESE
ARE--

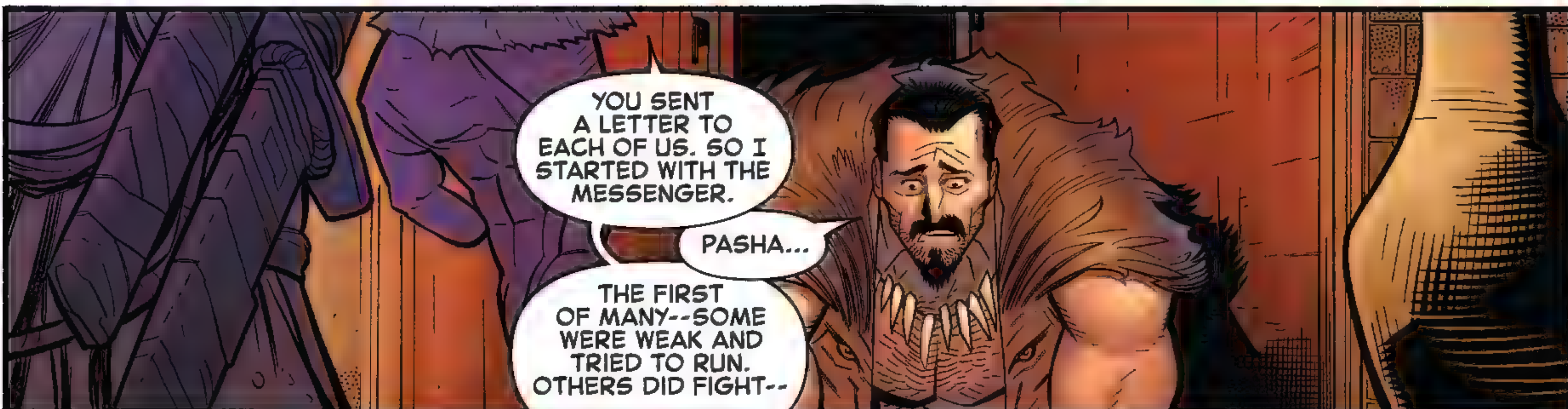
ALL
OF THEM.
YES.



YOUR
OWN FLESH
AND BLOOD--MY
OWN SONS--AND
YOU--KILLED
THEM...

I
HUNTED
THEM.

HOW...



YOU SENT
A LETTER TO
EACH OF US. SO I
STARTED WITH THE
MESSENGER.

PASHA...

THE FIRST
OF MANY--SOME
WERE WEAK AND
TRIED TO RUN.
OTHERS DID FIGHT--



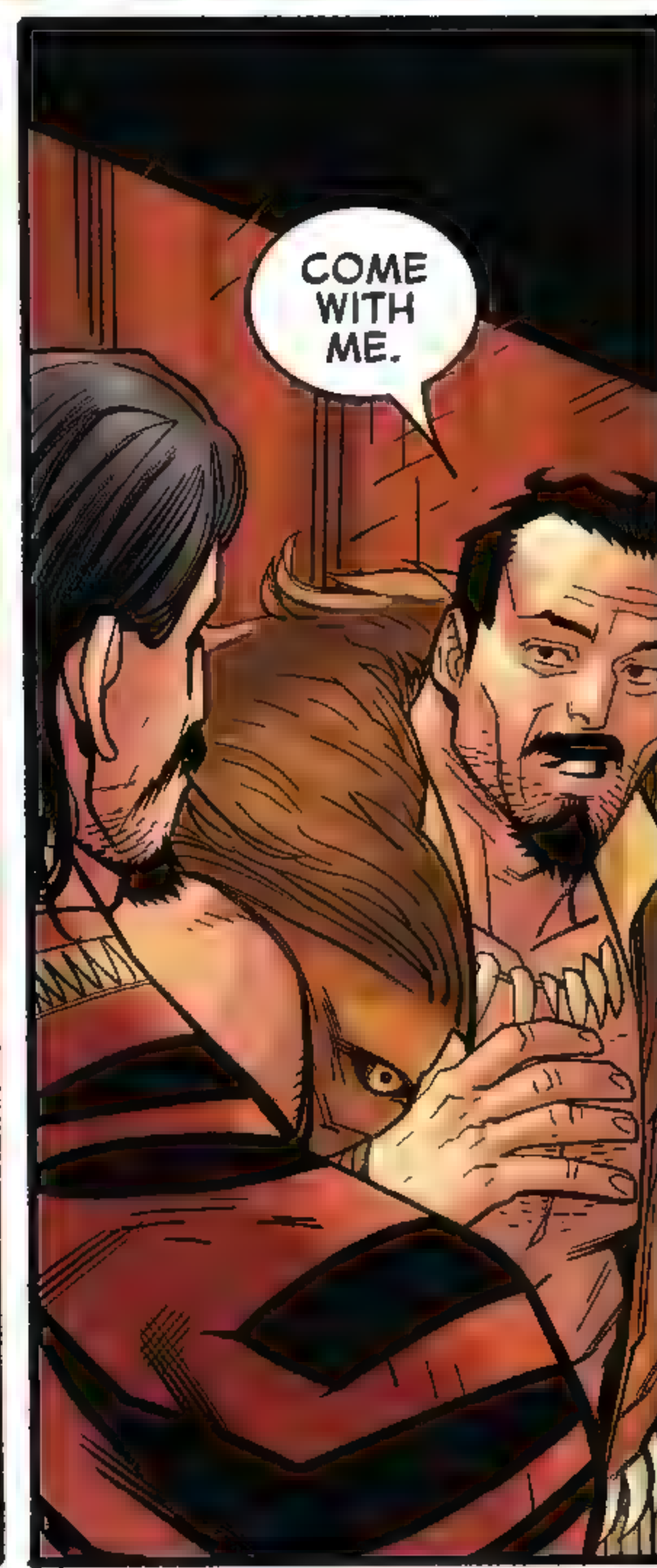
--BUT ALL FELL BY
MY HAND. DO YOU
KNOW WHY?

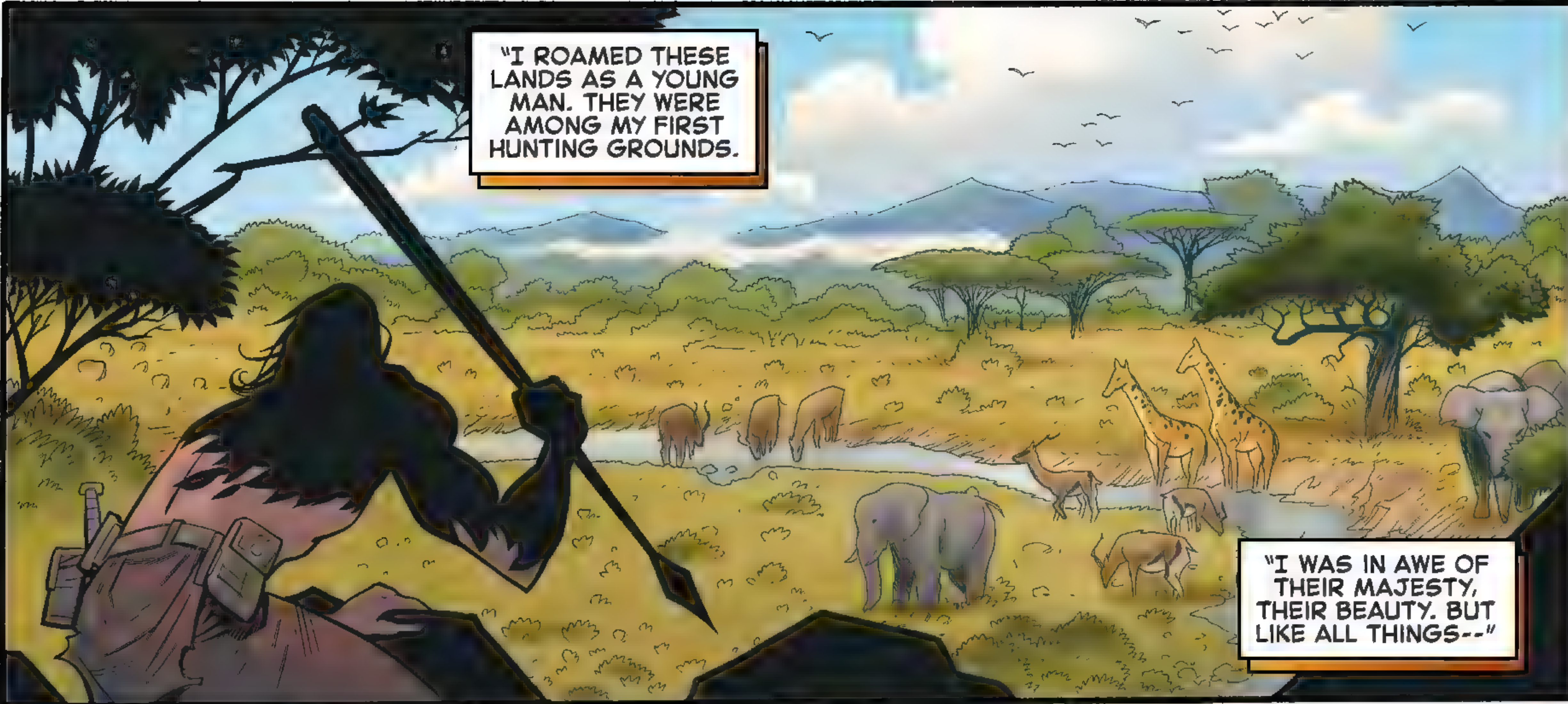
BECAUSE THEY WERE
NOT WORTHY OF
YOU, FATHER. ONLY I
AM. YOU MUST SEE
THAT NOW. YOU
MUST--

STOP--
JUST--



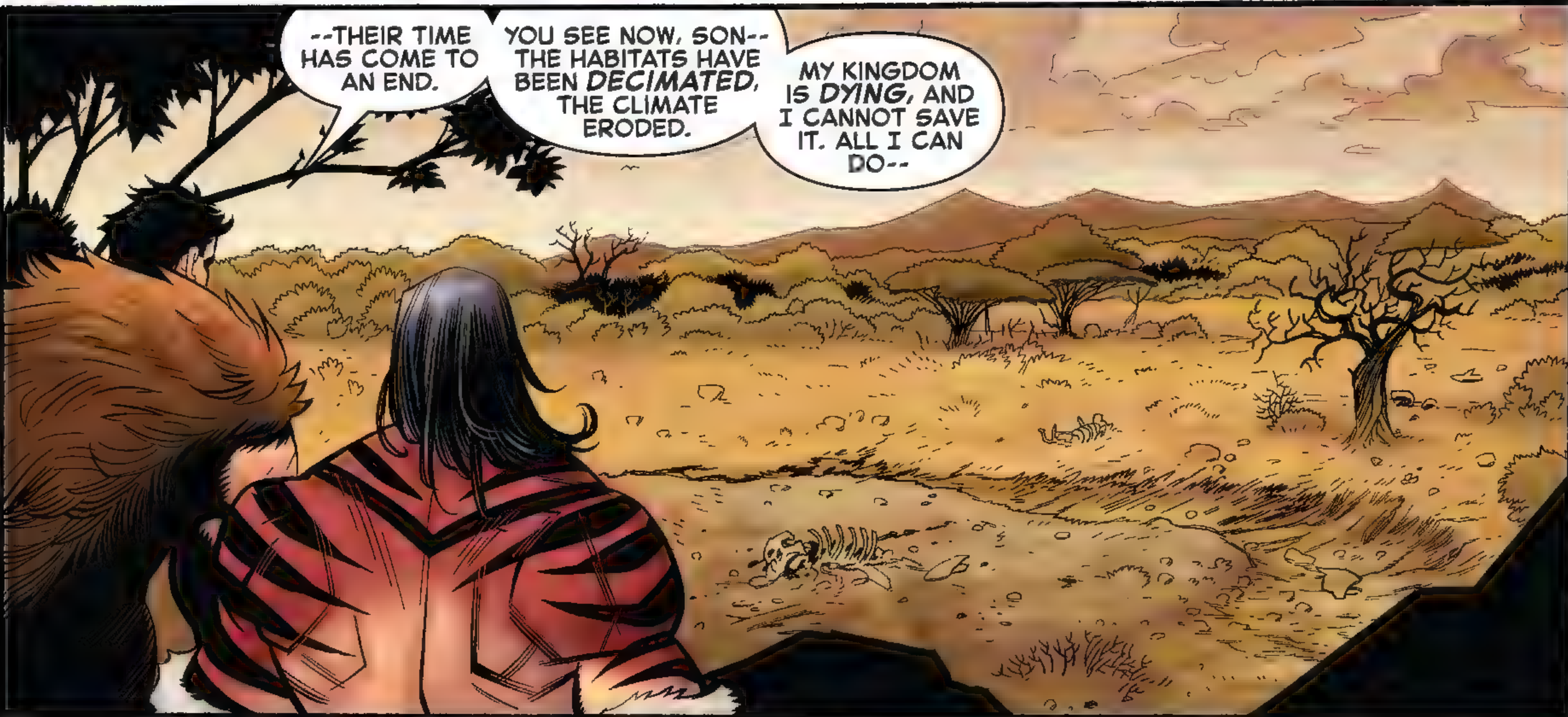
--STOP. YOU
ARE A MONSTER.
AN ABOMINATION.
A BEAST--





"I ROAMED THESE LANDS AS A YOUNG MAN. THEY WERE AMONG MY FIRST HUNTING GROUNDS."

"I WAS IN AWE OF THEIR MAJESTY, THEIR BEAUTY. BUT LIKE ALL THINGS--"



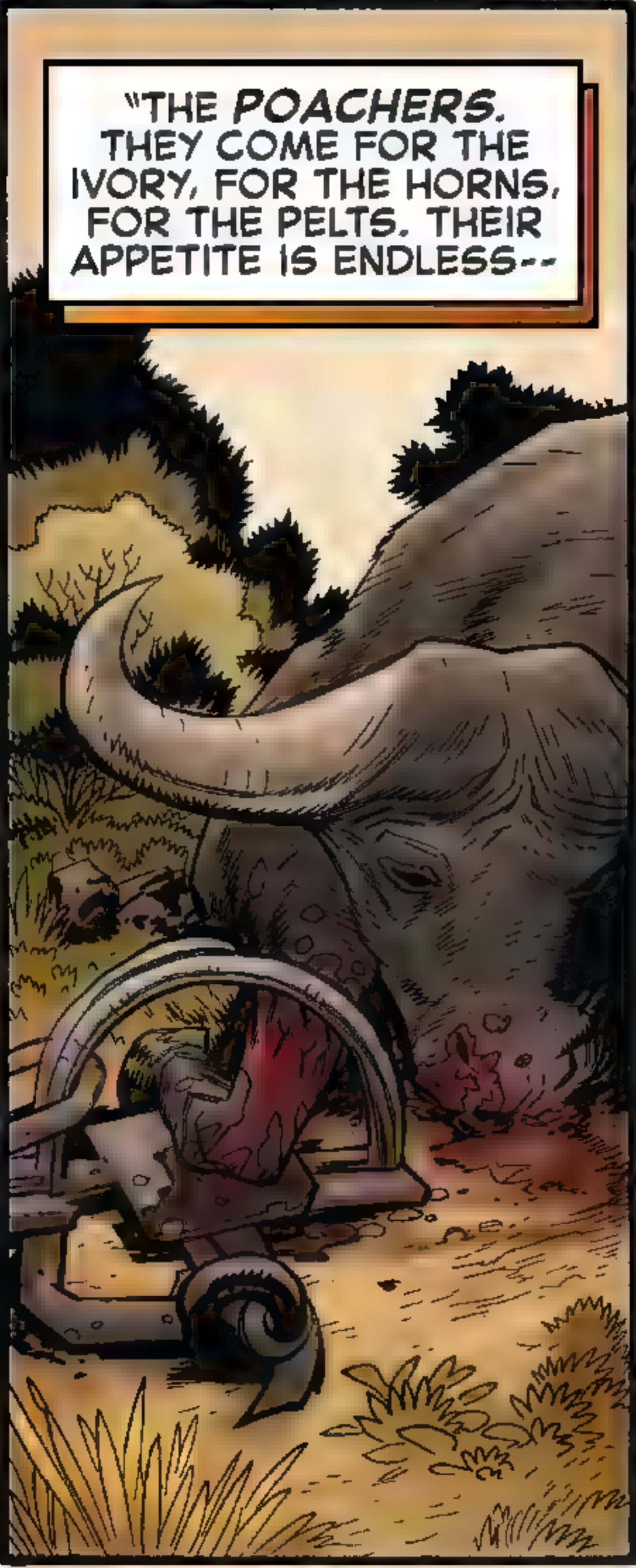
--THEIR TIME HAS COME TO AN END.

YOU SEE NOW, SON-- THE HABITATS HAVE BEEN **DECIMATED**, THE CLIMATE ERODED.

MY KINGDOM IS DYING, AND I CANNOT SAVE IT. ALL I CAN DO--



--IS WATCH AS THE VULTURES DESCEND.



"THE **POACHERS**. THEY COME FOR THE IVORY, FOR THE HORNS, FOR THE PELTS. THEIR APPETITE IS ENDLESS--"



"--AND THEIR CRUELTY KNOWS NO BOUNDS."

"I HAVE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO THE HUNT. I BELIEVE IN MAN'S NOBLE RIGHT TO DOMINION OVER THE WILD--"



--BUT THERE IS **NOTHING** NOBLE IN THIS.



"AND IT IS NOT JUST THE VULTURES. THE WORMS CRAWL OUT FROM THE DIRT AS WELL."

"RICH FOOLS DESECRATE HALLOWED GROUND IN SEARCH OF THEIR LOST VIGOR."



"THEY CALL THEMSELVES HUNTERS--BUT THEY ARE WALKED INTO THE JUNGLE LIKE *CHILDREN* HOLDING A TEACHER'S HAND."

"THEIR PREY IS MADE WEAK BY TRAPS AND DRUGS AND POISON--"



"--AND THEN THEY *DEMEAN* THE ANIMAL'S SACRIFICE WITH THEIR TAUNTS AND THEIR BOASTS."



THEY ARE A DISGRACE TO EVERYTHING I HAVE STOOD FOR. BUT EACH DAY THEIR NUMBERS *MULTIPLY*.

SO TELL ME, SON, IF THIS IS TO BE YOUR KINGDOM NOW, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



SEND A MESSAGE. KILL THE NEXT FEW TRESPASSERS, HANG THEIR BODIES AT THE FOUR CORNERS OF YOUR TERRITORIES.

THAT MIGHT WORK. FOR A LITTLE WHILE. BUT THESE POACHERS AND GUIDES, THEIR *DESPERATION* GIVES BIRTH TO COURAGE. THEY WILL STILL TAKE THE CHANCE. THEY HAVE NO CHOICE.

AND FOR THE *OUTSIDERS*, WELL--THEIR ARROGANCE WILL GUIDE THEM EVEN IF NO ONE ELSE WILL.

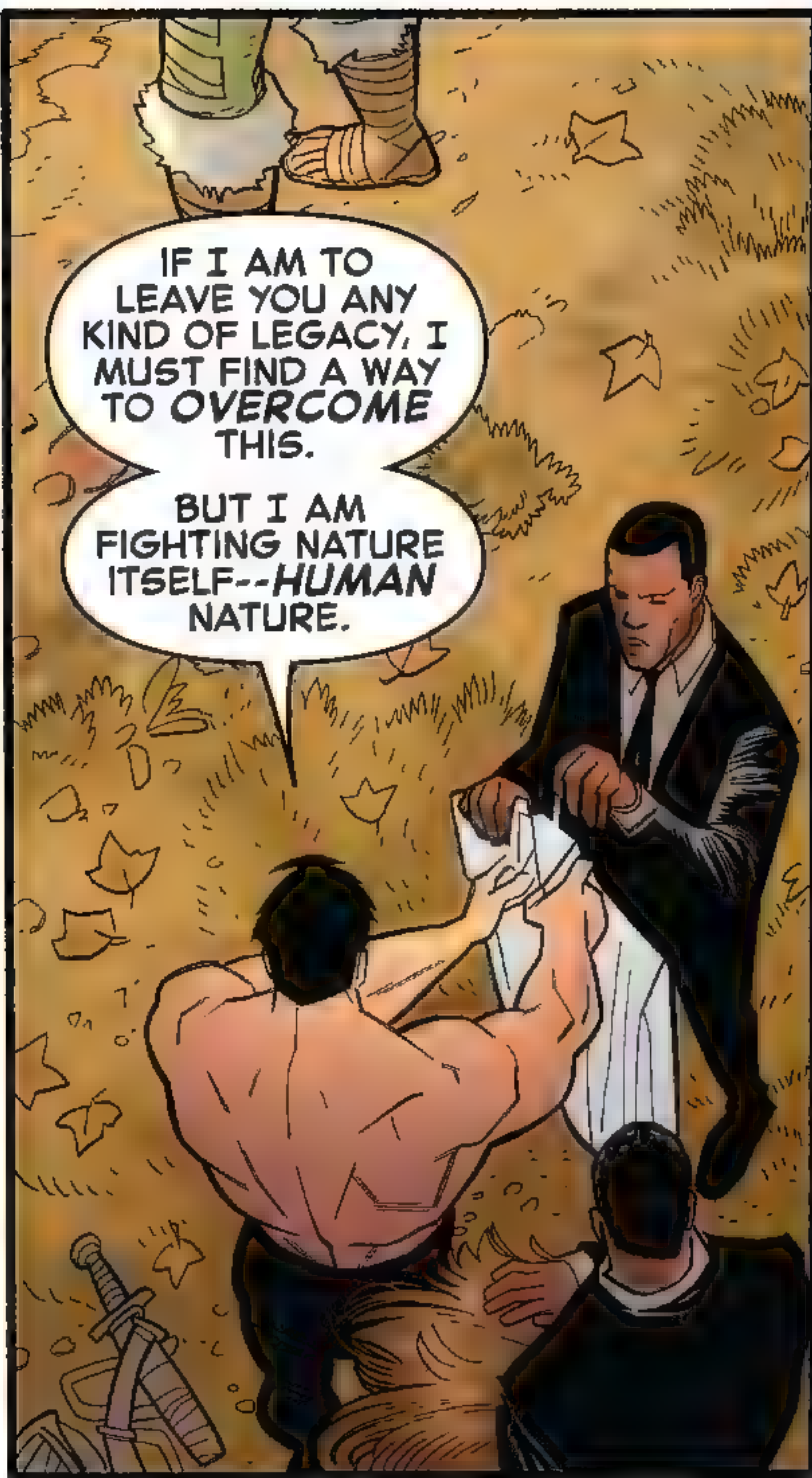


SO KILL THEM ALL. YOU ARE *KRAVEN THE HUNTER*. SHOW THEM YOUR STRENGTH.

HH. IN THE FACE OF THIS HORDE, EVEN MY *STRENGTH* MAY NOT BE ENOUGH. AND EVEN IF IT WERE--



--I WILL NOT BE HERE FOREVER.



IF I AM TO LEAVE YOU ANY KIND OF LEGACY, I MUST FIND A WAY TO OVERCOME THIS.

BUT I AM FIGHTING NATURE ITSELF--HUMAN NATURE.



I KNOW I WILL NOT DEFEAT THIS THROUGH FEAR OR FORCE.

IT WILL REQUIRE SOMETHING WISER, SOMETHING MORE PATIENT--



--SOMETHING MORE SOPHISTICATED.

COME WITH ME, MY SON. THAT CELEBRATION I SPOKE OF BEFORE? IT IS ALREADY UNDERWAY. TONIGHT--





LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I GIVE YOU--
--KRAVEN THE HUNTER!

THANK YOU, MISTER ARCADE. THANK YOU.

I MUST ADMIT, I NEVER BELIEVED THIS DAY WOULD COME--THAT WE WOULD BE BROUGHT TOGETHER LIKE THIS.



WE SPENT SO LONG AS ENEMIES, AFTER ALL. I BELIEVED YOU TO BE THREATS TO MY KINGDOM AND ALL THE CREATURES WITHIN IT.

BUT THEN I REALIZED SO MUCH OF WHAT I SAW IN YOU WAS A REFLECTION OF MYSELF.



WE ARE ALL HUNTERS, ARE WE NOT?!

CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP

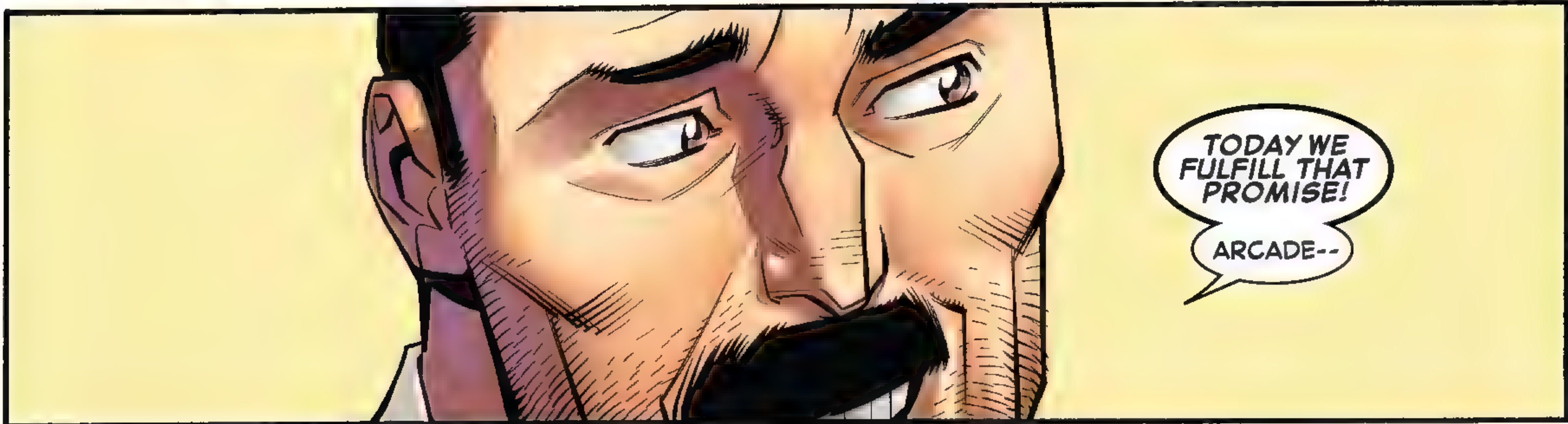


THEN I THOUGHT TO MYSELF-- THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE TITANS OF INDUSTRY, PILLARS OF THEIR COMMUNITY!

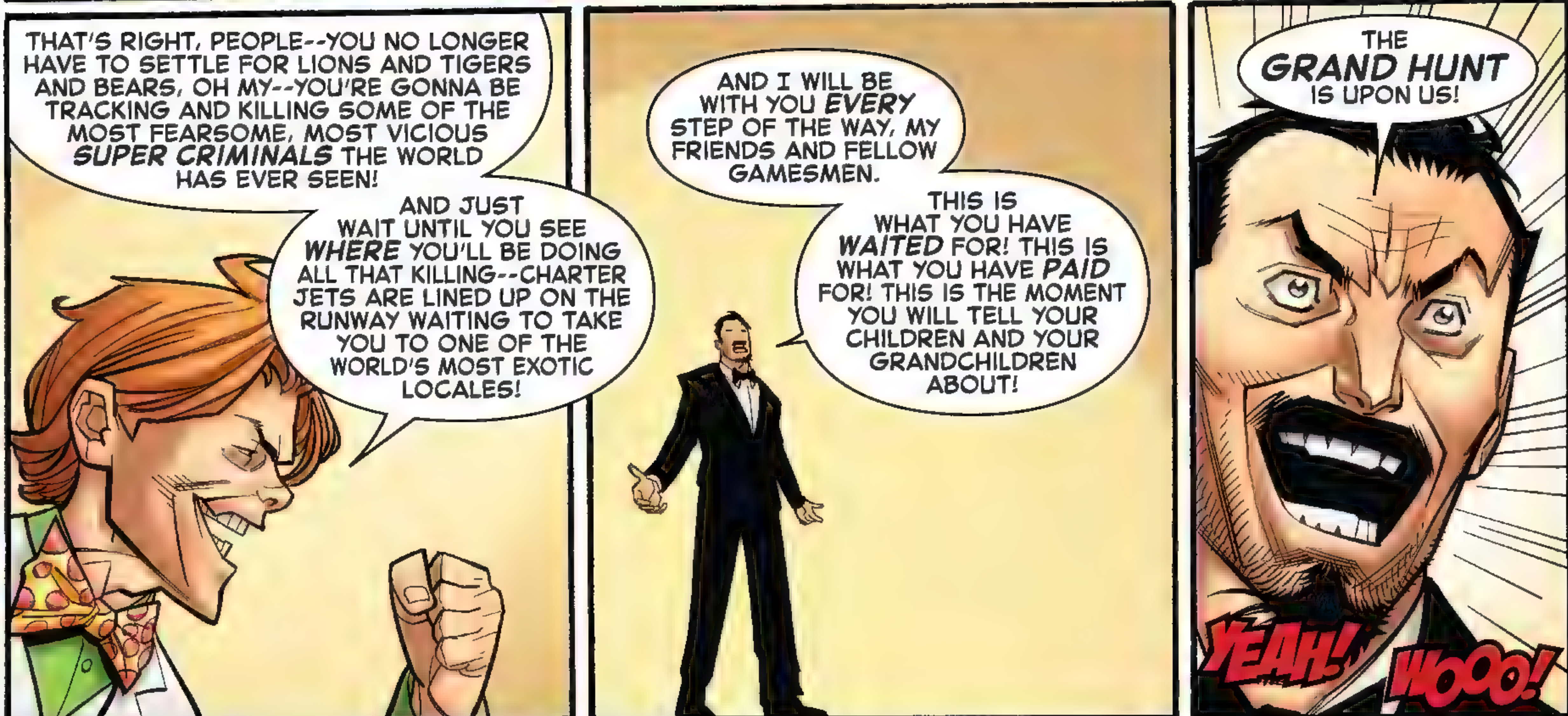
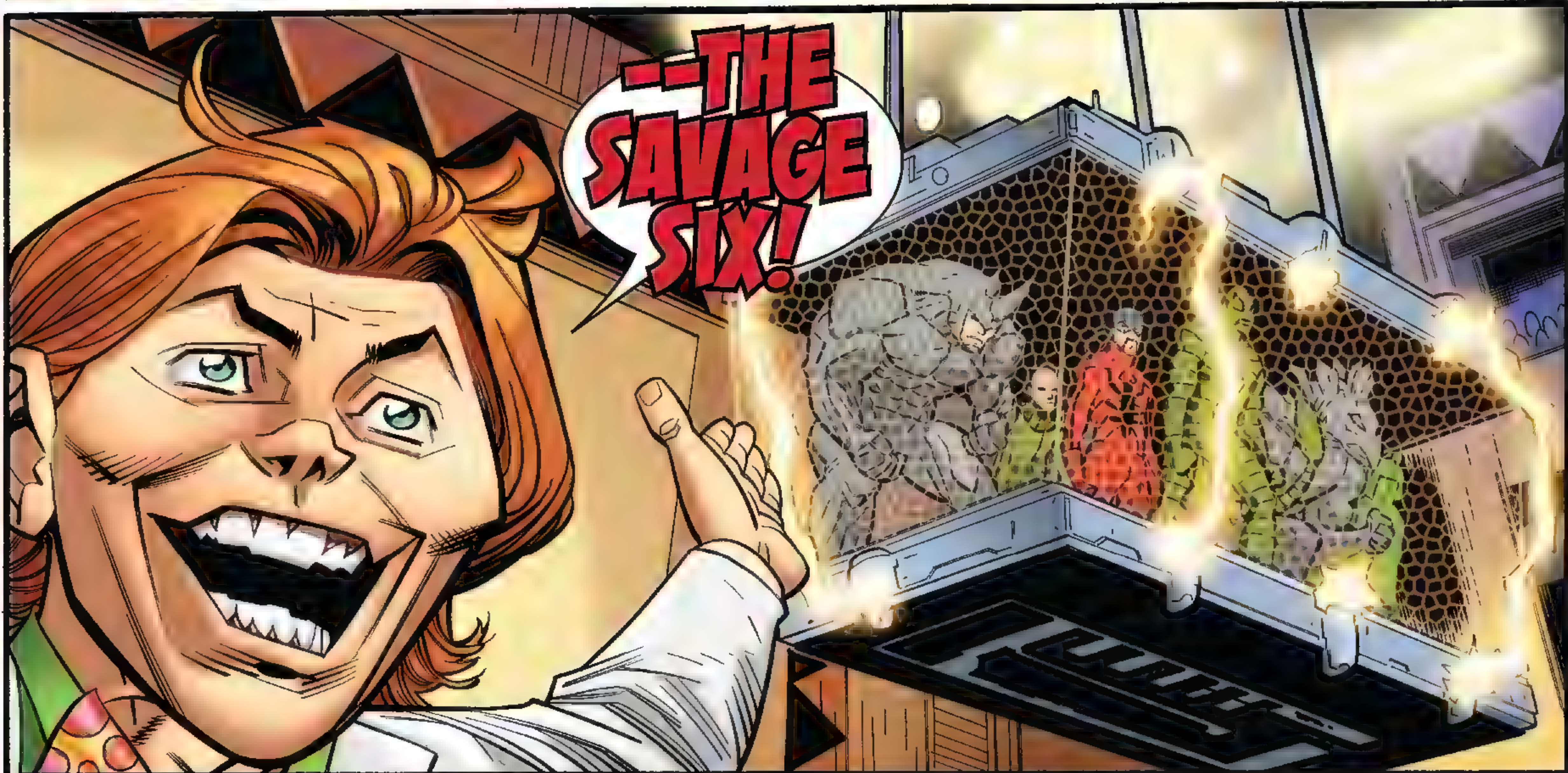
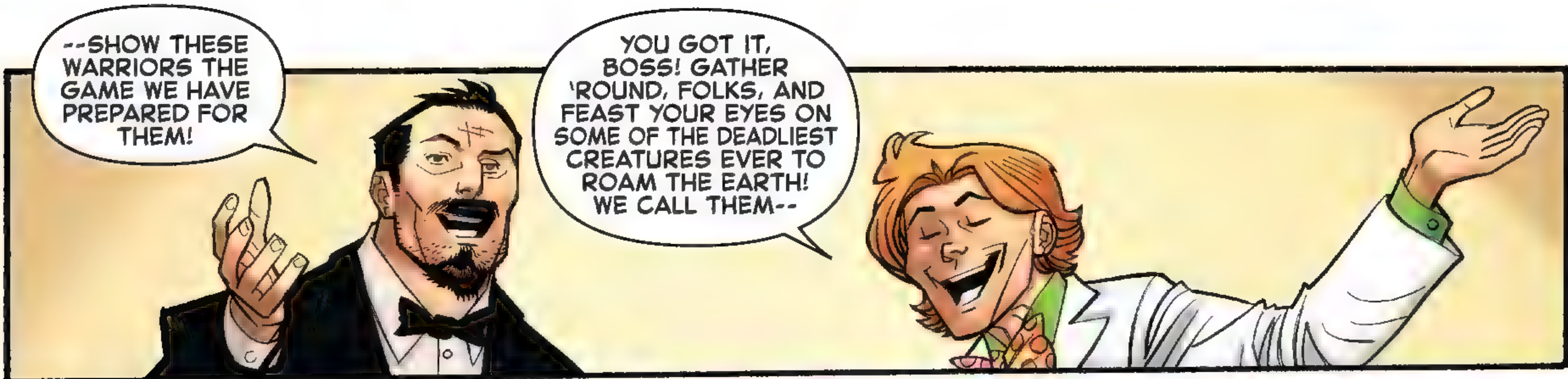
THEY DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS. BETTER THAN SOME POORLY TRAINED POACHER LEADING THEM TO EASY TARGETS.

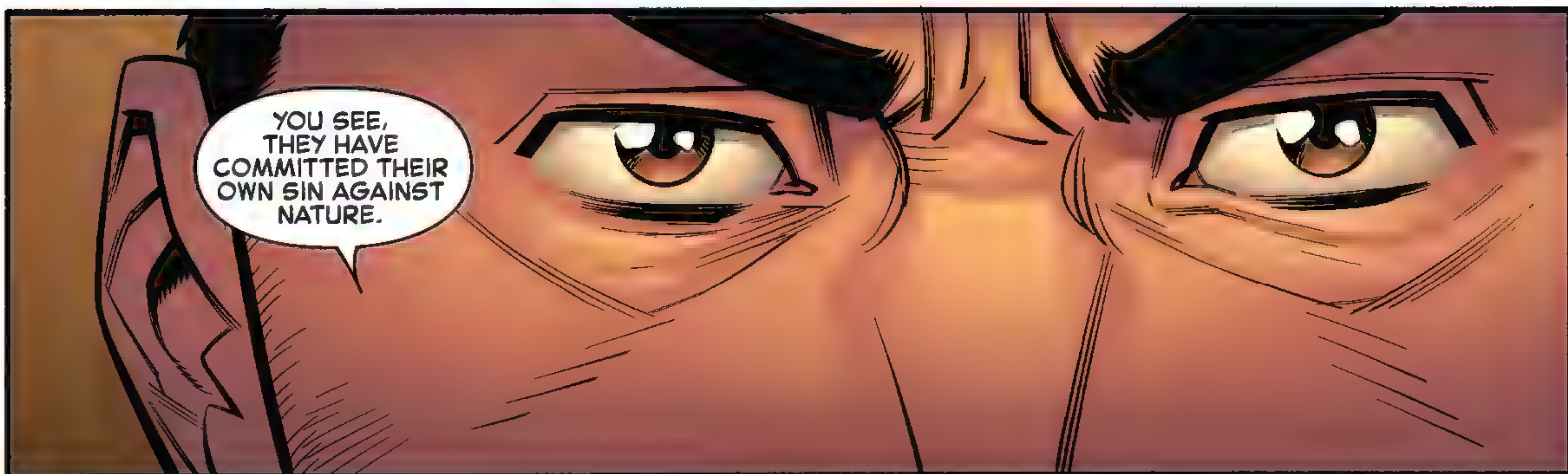
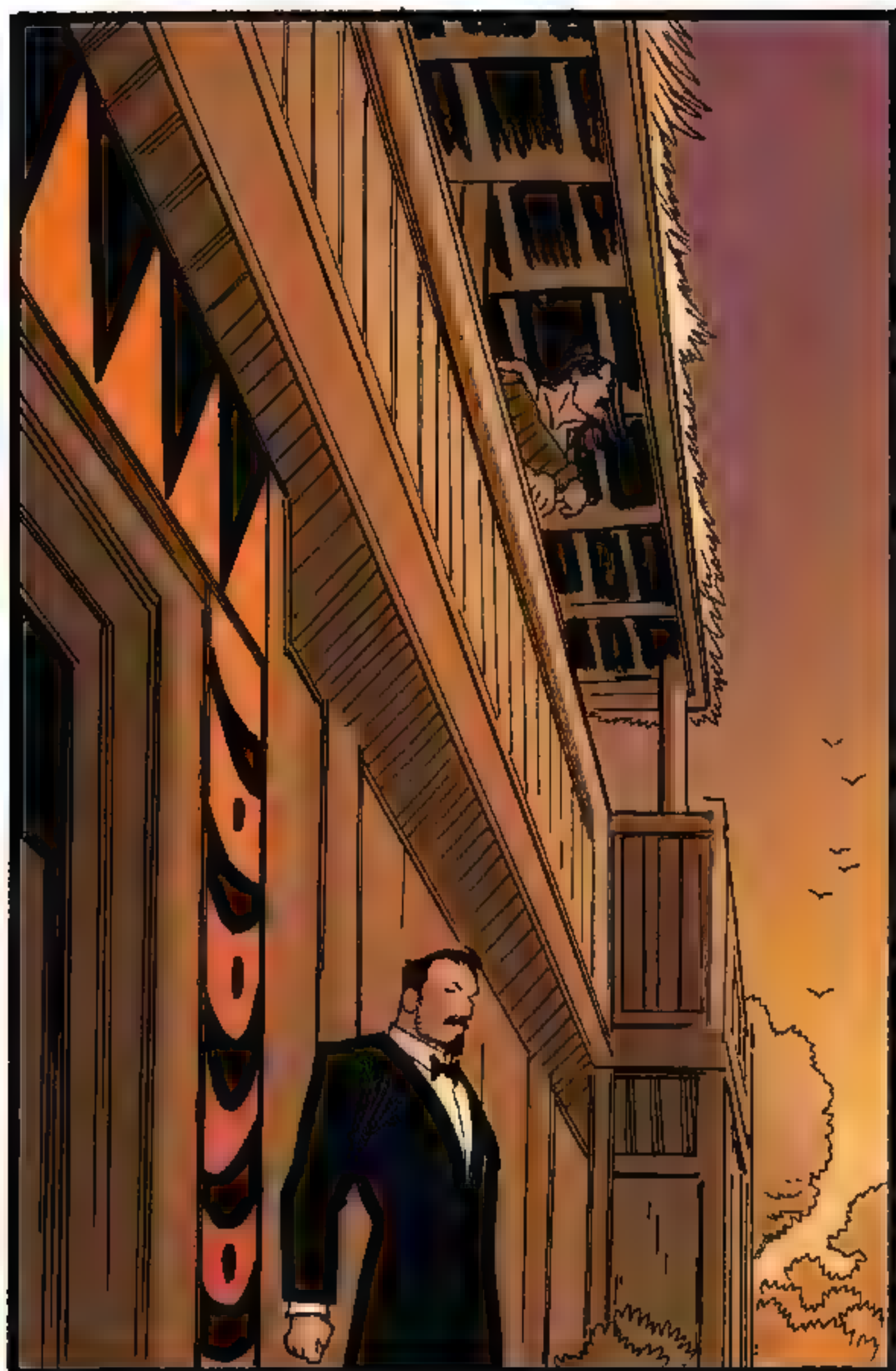
SO I CAME TO EACH OF YOU AND I MADE AN OFFER, DID I NOT? I PROMISED YOU THE GREATEST HUNT OF YOUR LIFE--YES?

WELL--



TODAY WE FULFILL THAT PROMISE!
ARCADE--





"TO WEAR THE
SKIN OF AN
ANIMAL IS NO
SMALL THING
FOR MAN.



"IT IS TO BECOME
THAT CREATURE'S
TOTEM, ITS AVATAR.



"IT IS A PATH
HEAVY IN **BLOOD**
AND **SUFFERING**.
SUCH IS THE WAY
OF THE JUNGLE.



"BUT THESE
IMPOSTORS, THEY
KNOW **NOTHING**
OF THIS.



"THEY CALL
THEMSELVES THE
BEAST, BUT THEY
DO NOT MAKE IT
FLESH.





"THEY WANT ITS STRENGTHS--
THE FEAR THE ANIMAL INSPIRES, ITS
POWER, ITS MAJESTY--BUT THEY HAVE
NO USE FOR HONORING ITS *SOUL*."



"AND SO I WILL
TEACH THEM THAT
HONOR NOW."



"I WILL SHOW THEM
WHAT IT IS TO BE
ONE WITH *VIOLENT
NATURE*."



"I WILL SHOW
THEM WHAT IT
TAKES TO
SURVIVE."

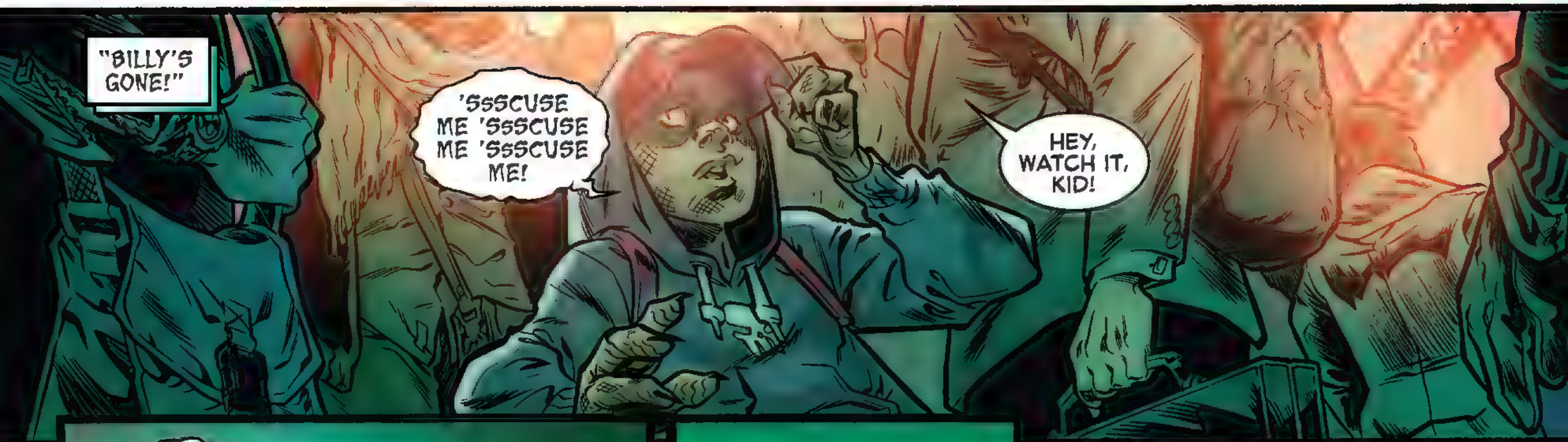


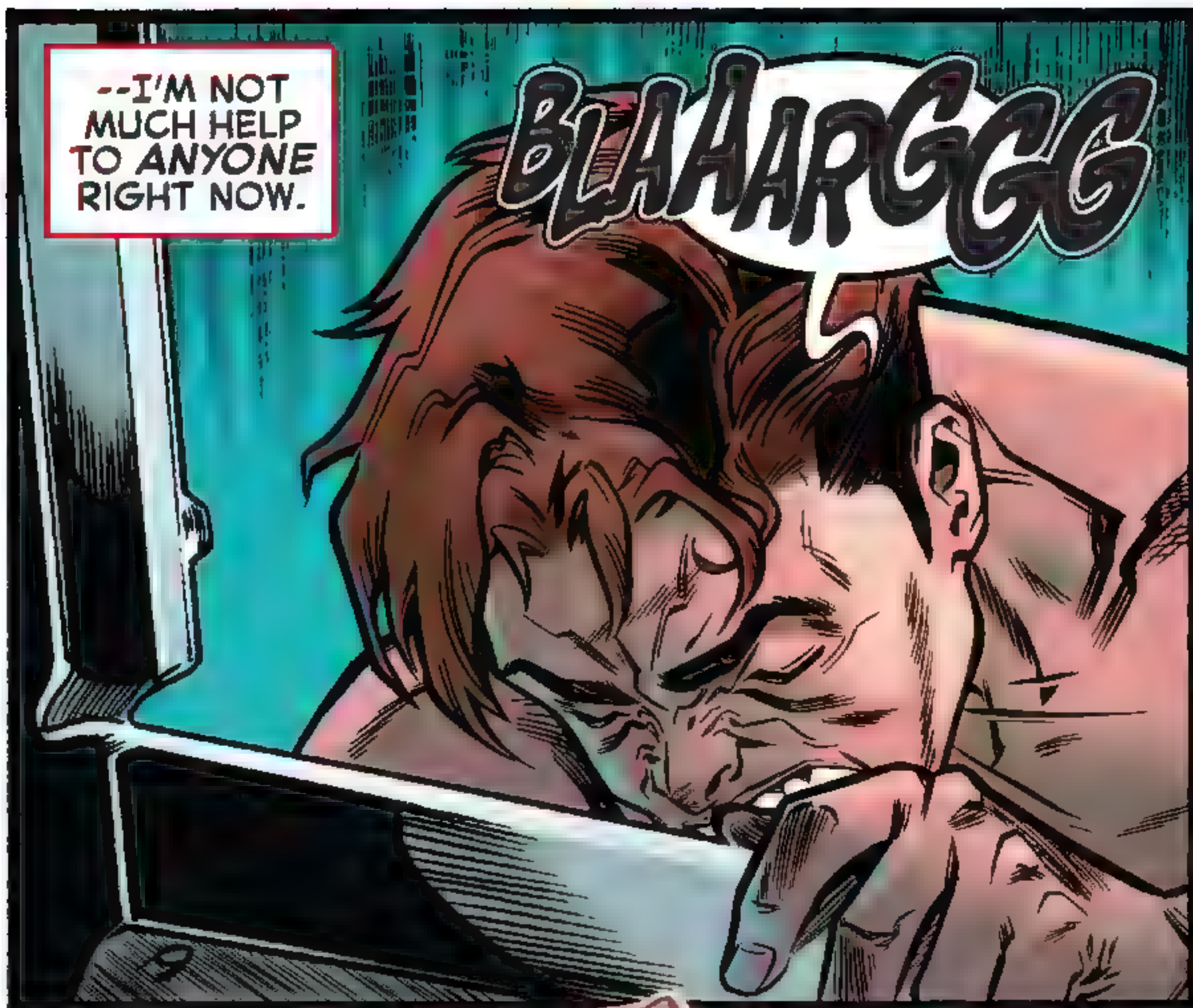
"I WILL SHOW
THEM WHAT IT IS
TO BE *CLAIMED
BY THE WILD*."



I WILL
SHOW THEM
WHAT IT
IS...

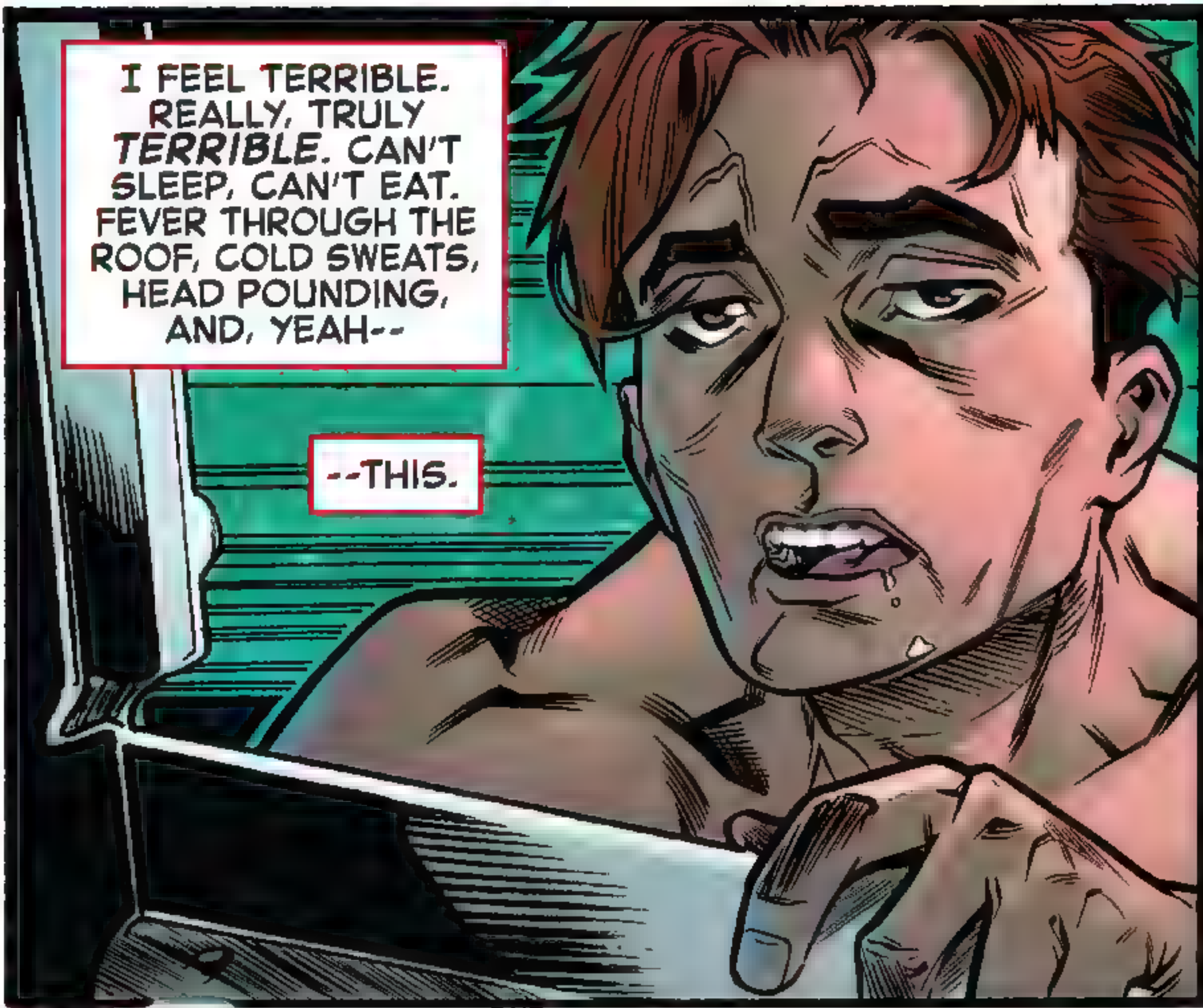
...TO BE
HUNTED.





--I'M NOT MUCH HELP TO ANYONE RIGHT NOW.

BLAAARGGG



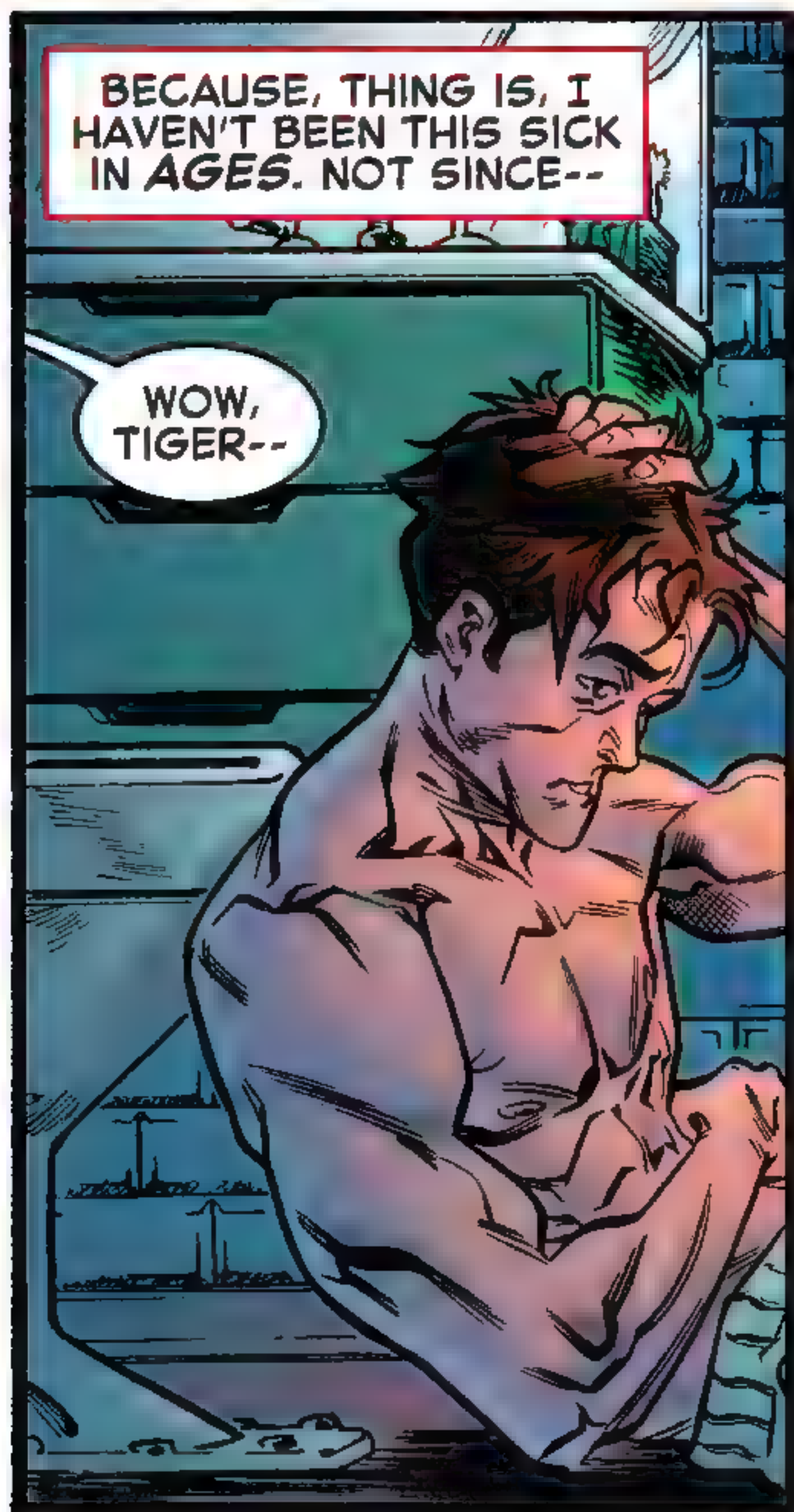
I FEEL TERRIBLE. REALLY, TRULY **TERRIBLE**. CAN'T SLEEP, CAN'T EAT. FEVER THROUGH THE ROOF, COLD SWEATS, HEAD POUNDING, AND, YEAH--

--THIS.



FELT THIS WAY EVER SINCE I GOT BACK FROM THE FIGHT DOWNTOWN, WHEN **TASKMASTER** AND **BLACK ANT** SHOWED UP TO KIDNAP THE **RHINO**--

--AND **NED LEEDS**-- OR NED'S CLONE, I GUESS--DIED IN THE CHAOS. MAYBE THAT'S MESSING WITH ME, TOO.



BECAUSE, THING IS, I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS SICK IN **AGES**. NOT SINCE--

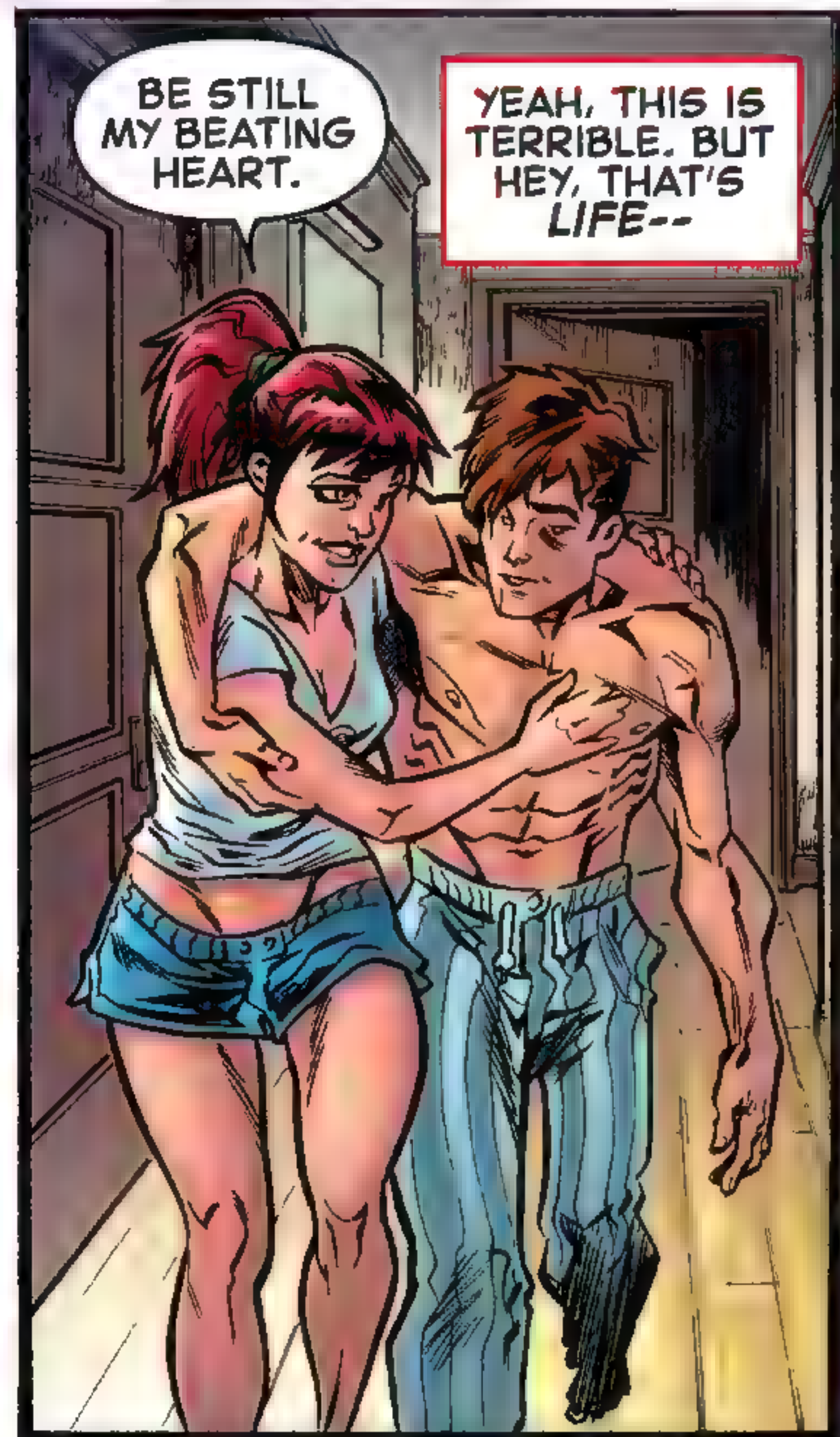
WOW, TIGER--



--SOMETIMES IT'S HARD FOR ME TO KEEP MY HANDS OFF YOU, YOU KNOW?

I MIGHT NEED TO BRUSH MY TEETH BEFORE WE START MAKING OUT.

SIGH



BE STILL MY BEATING HEART.

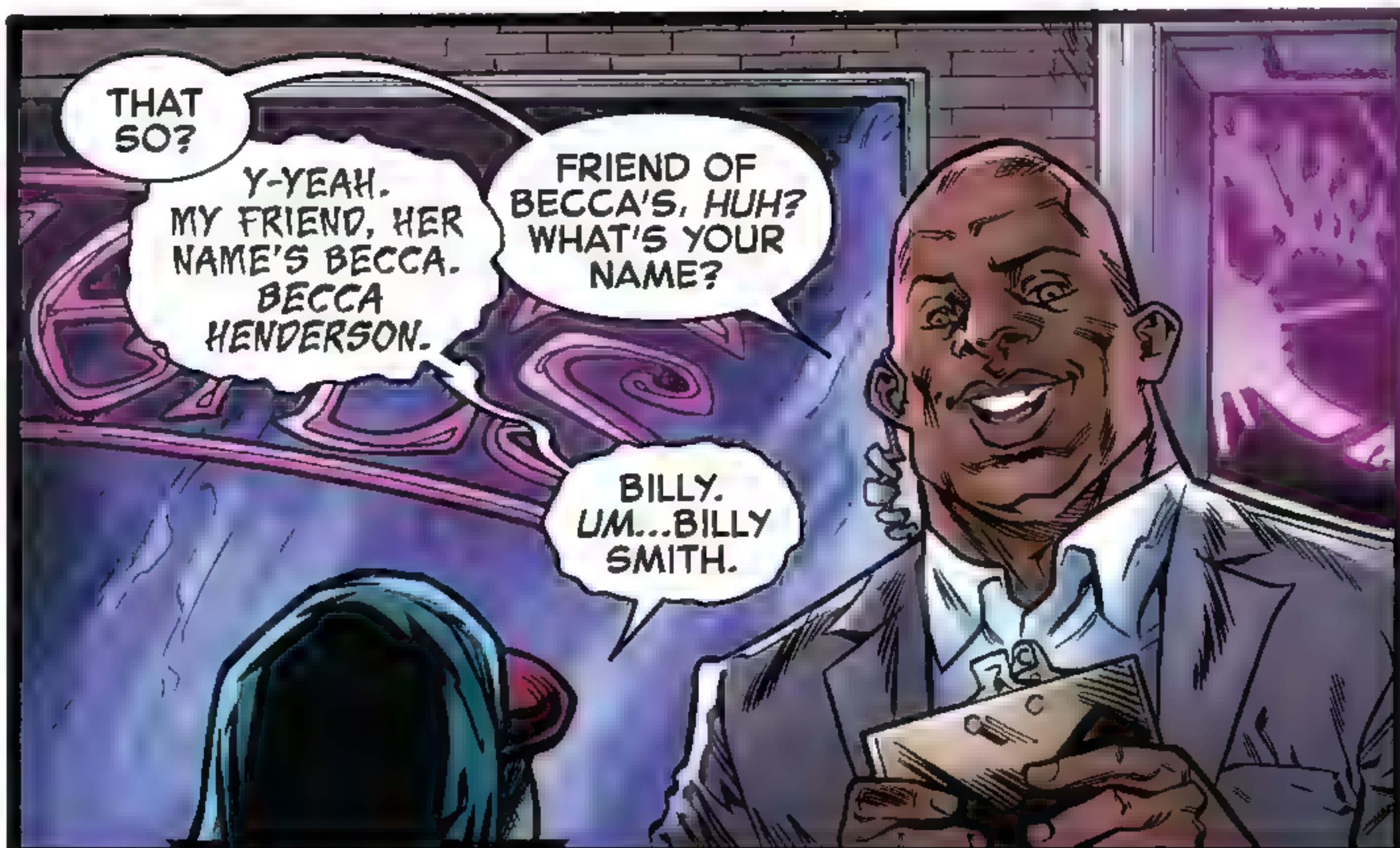
YEAH, THIS IS TERRIBLE. BUT HEY, THAT'S **LIFE**--



--IT'S NOT ALWAYS A PARTY.

CAN I HELP YOU, LITTLE MAN?

UH--UH...
YEAH.
MY, UM--MY FRIENDS ARE IN THERE.



THAT SO?

Y-YEAH.
MY FRIEND, HER NAME'S BECCA.
BECCA HENDERSON.

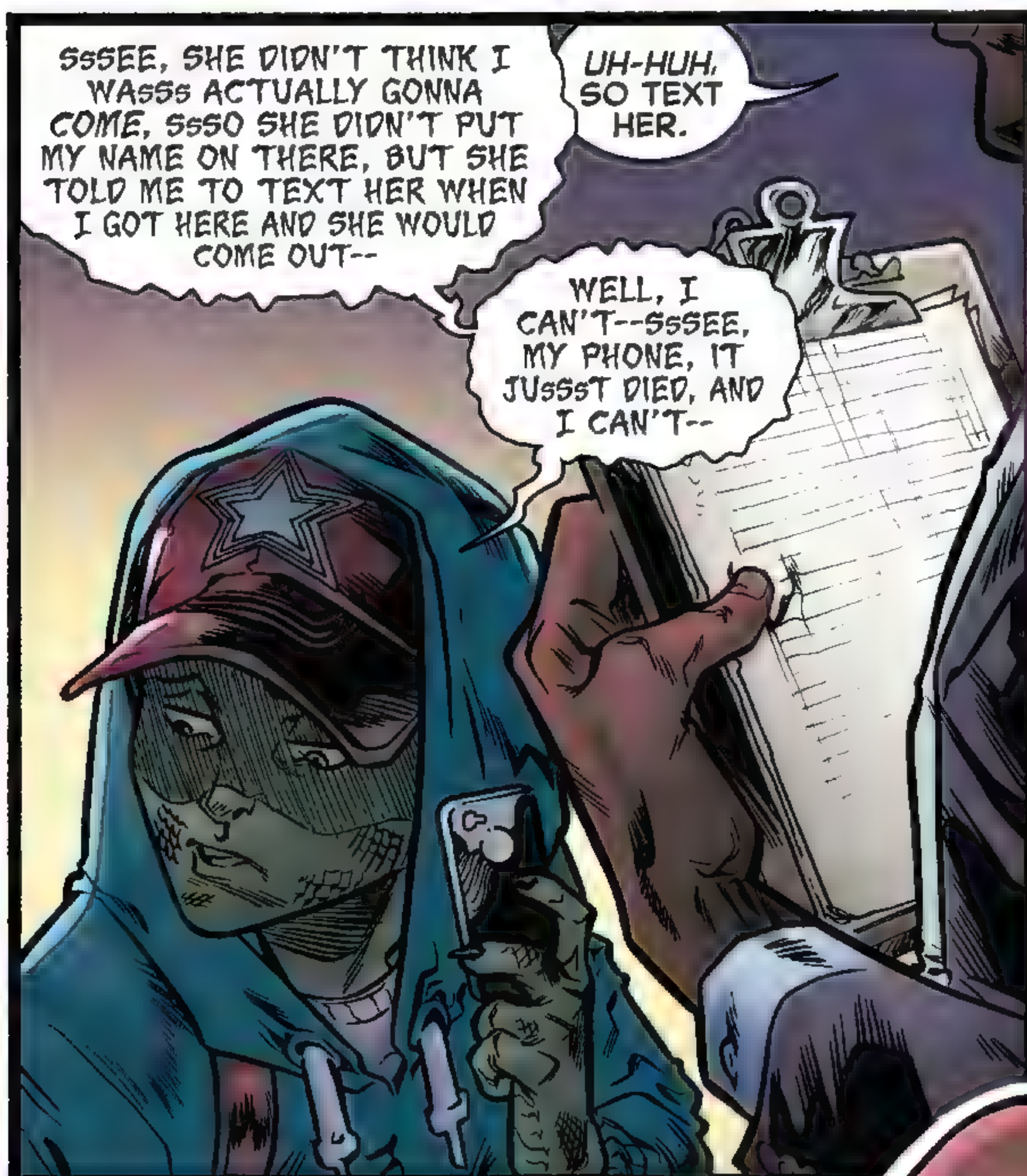
FRIEND OF BECCA'S, HUH? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

BILLY.
UM...BILLY SMITH.



HM. I DON'T SEE YOUR NAME ON THE LIST, BILLY.

YEAH, UM,
SORRY--
JUST A DUMB MIX-UP--



SSSEE, SHE DIDN'T THINK I WASSS ACTUALLY GONNA COME, SSSO SHE DIDN'T PUT MY NAME ON THERE, BUT SHE TOLD ME TO TEXT HER WHEN I GOT HERE AND SHE WOULD COME OUT--

UH-HUH,
SO TEXT HER.

WELL, I CAN'T--SSSEE, MY PHONE, IT JUSST DIED, AND I CAN'T--



BUT I'M SSSERIOUSSS! I'M SSSUPPOSESS TO BE THERE--

YEAH, LOTS OF THINGS "SUPPOSED" TO BE. BUT THEN THERE'S HOW THINGS ARE. AND IN THIS CASE--



--YOU. AIN'T. GETTIN'. IN.

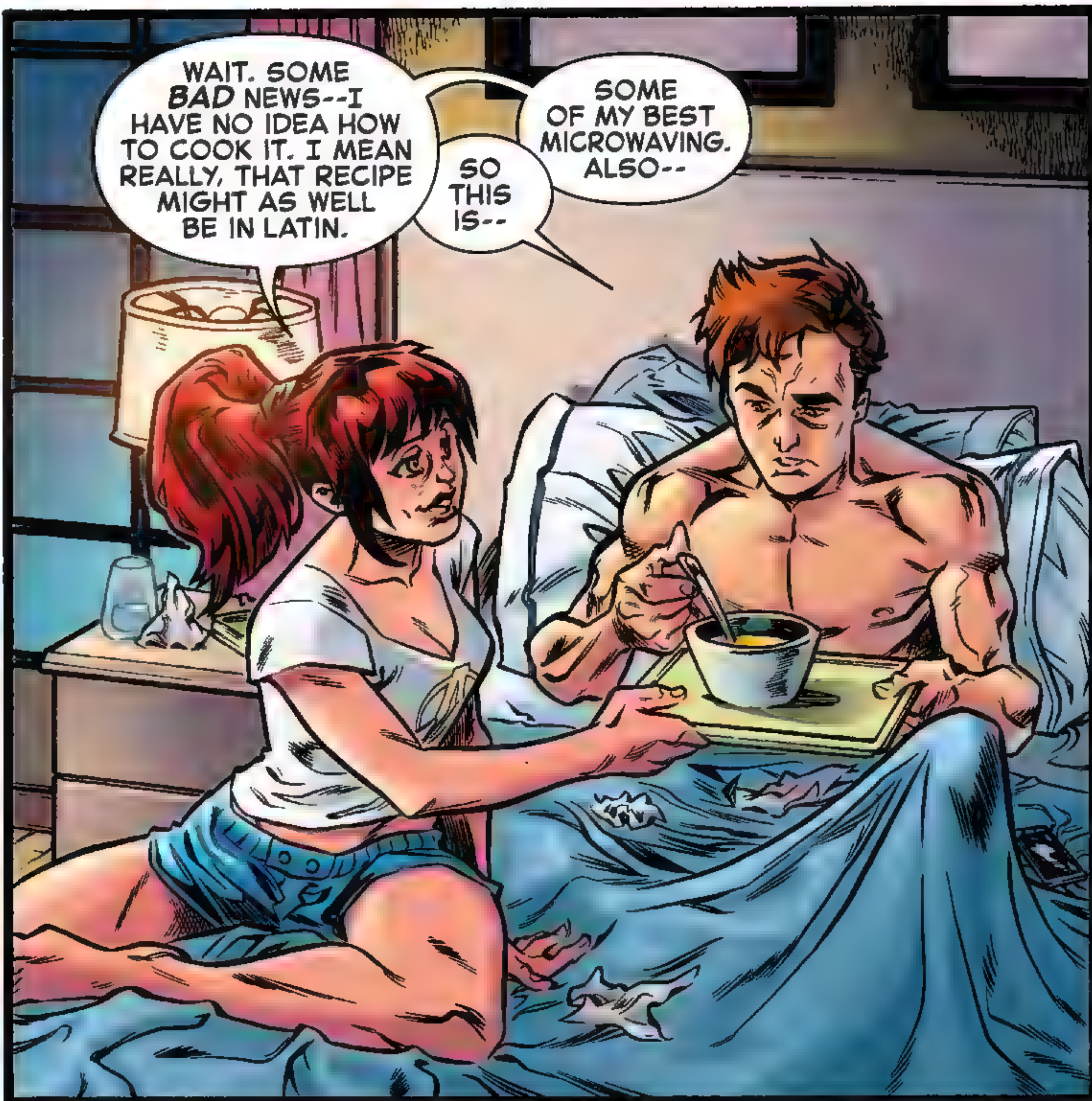




"OKAY, GOOD NEWS--"



--I HAVE MY AUNT ANNA'S RECIPE FOR CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP, WHICH IS GUARANTEED TO FIX WHAT AILS YA, TIGER.



WAIT. SOME **BAD NEWS**--I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO COOK IT. I MEAN REALLY, THAT RECIPE MIGHT AS WELL BE IN LATIN.

SO THIS IS--

SOME OF MY BEST MICROWAVING. ALSO--



--THE BODEGA WAS OUT OF CHICKEN NOODLE, SO THAT'S CREAMY MUSHROOM.

WOW...

I KNOW. YOU'RE **VERY** LUCKY TO HAVE ME.

I REALLY AM--



OKAY, SEXY--WE MAYBE NEED TO START TALK ABOUT ENLISTING SOME PROFESSIONALS.

~KAFF!~

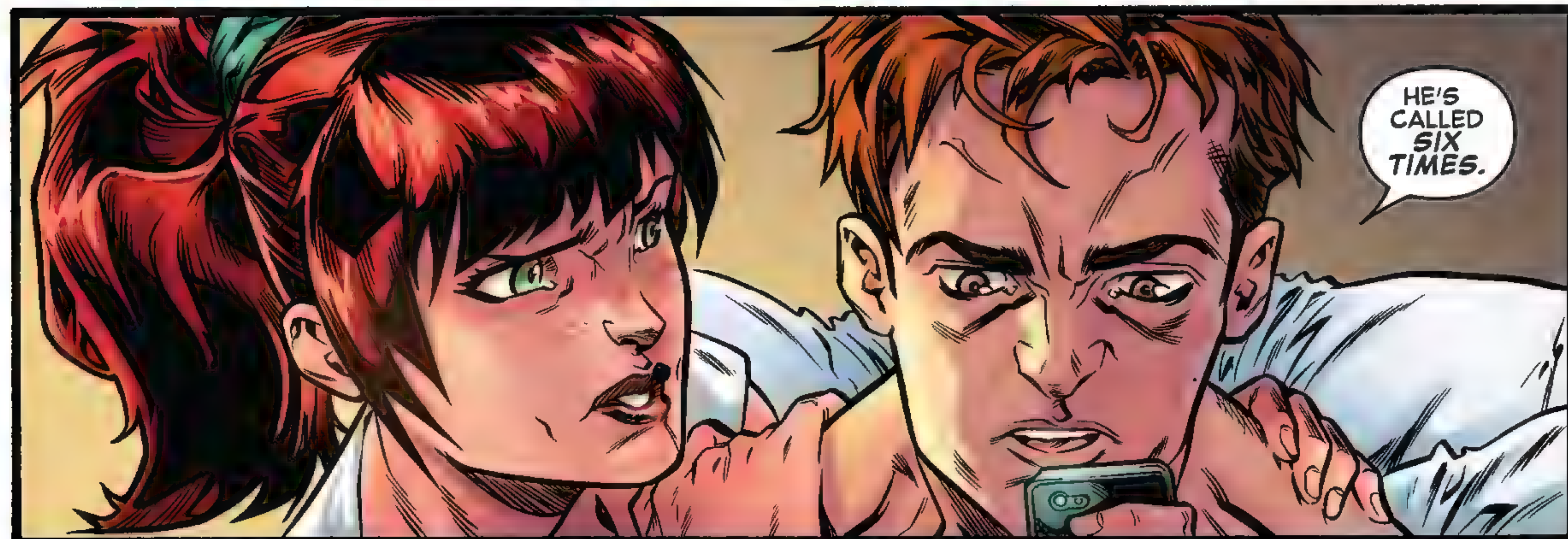


UHHN...I DON'T EVEN GET WHAT THIS **IS**. SYMPTOMS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE. MAYBE WEBMD CAN TELL ME HOW SOON IT'LL KILL ME. JUST GOTTA--OOF.

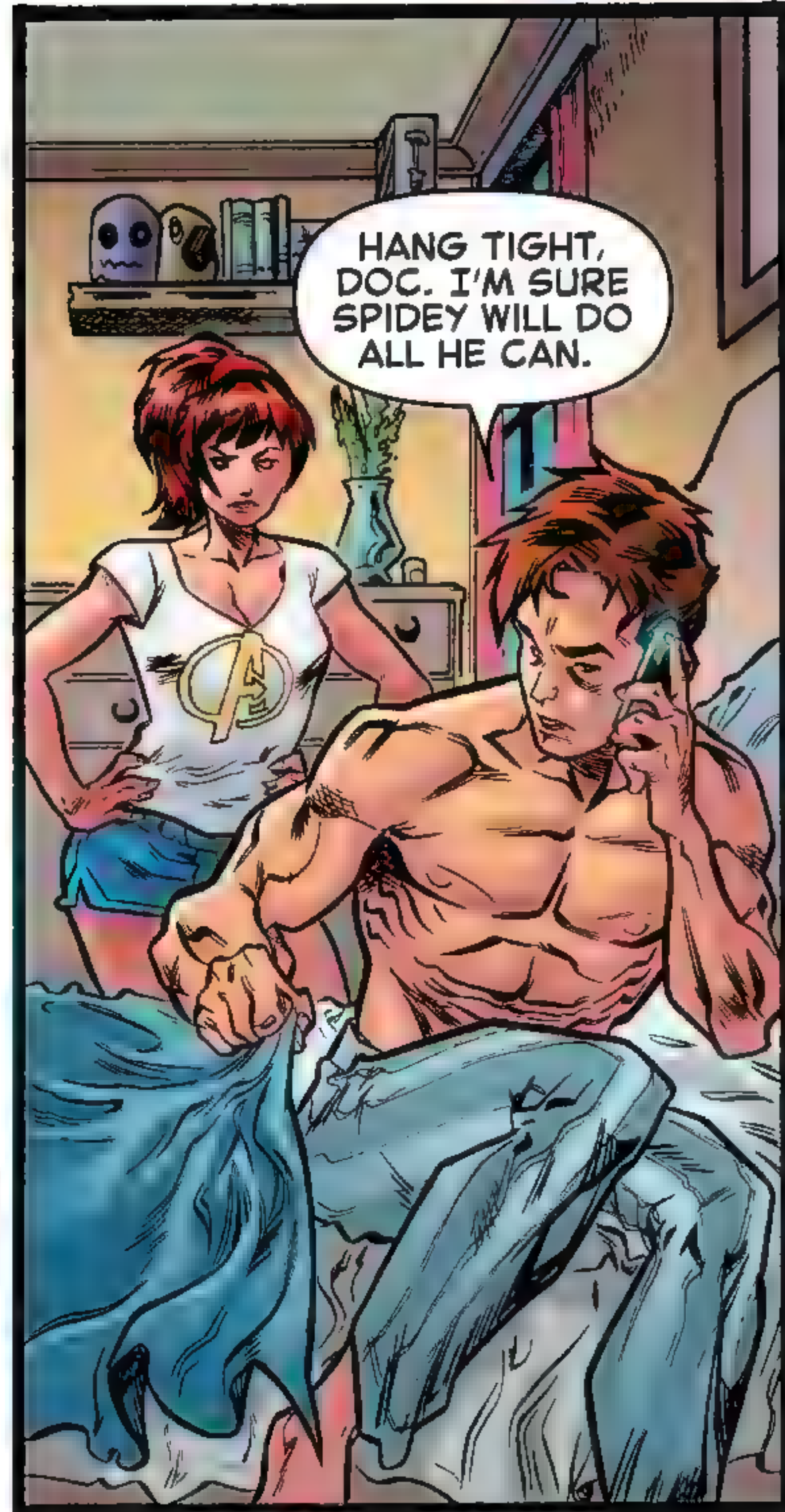
WHAT IS IT?

DOC CONNORS.

SEE, THIS IS WHY YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO **CHECK** THOSE THINGS WHEN YOU'RE IN BED--



HE'S CALLED **SIX** TIMES.



I DON'T BLAME MJ FOR WORRYING. TRUTH IS, IF BILLY WERE ANY **ORDINARY** KID, MAYBE THERE WOULD BE SOMEBODY ELSE WHO COULD HELP.

BUT CONSIDERING HE'S A FOUR-FOOT-TALL **LIZARD**, IT'S UP TO ME. AND I'D BETTER FIND HIM QUICK--



--BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE DOES.

TASKY, BROTHER, COME ON, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE **CELEBRATING**. CLIENT'S HAPPY. AT LEAST I *THINK* HE WAS SMILING. HARD TO TELL WITH THE MOUSTACHE.

I'M JUST SAYIN', ANT--WE LEFT A FEW LOOSE ENDS OUT THERE.

YOU KIDDING? DID YOU SEE KRAVEN'S CELLS? WE GOT MORE TRAPPED, MISERABLE ANIMALS THAN SEAWORLD.

PROX
CORP

NAH, I GET IT, BUT MAN--WOULDA BEEN NICE TO CATCH US A TIGER SHARK. OR GORILLA-MAN.

AND THEN THERE WAS THE **LIZARD**! WE HAD 'IM RIGHT THERE IN OUR SIGHTS BEFORE #\$\$%& SPIDER-MAN SHOWED UP! TELLIN' YA, ANT--



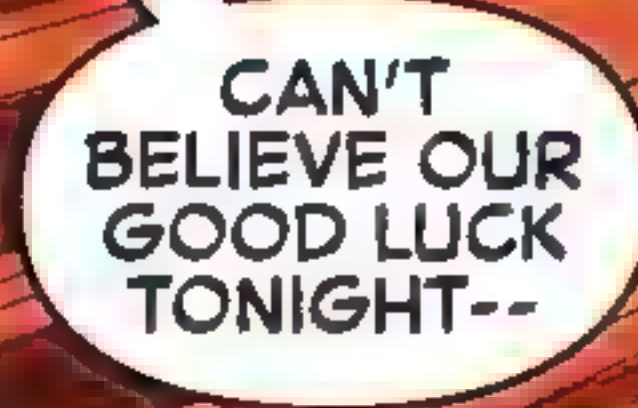
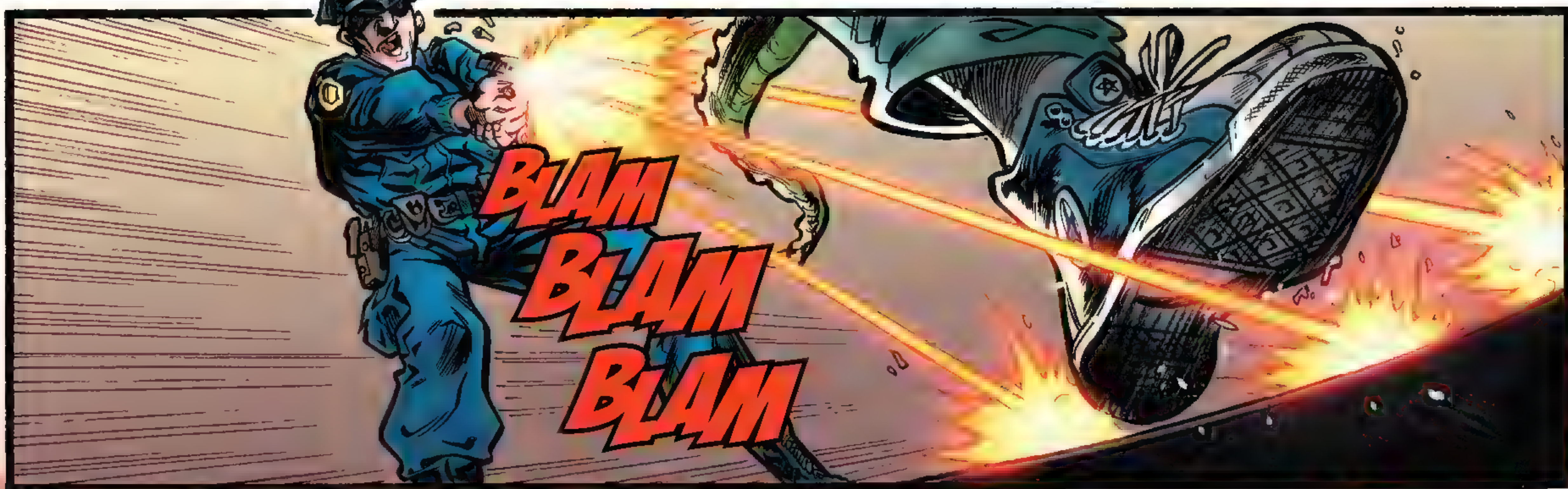
--YOU DON'T GET MANY CHANCES LIKE THAT.

UH, TASKY--



--YOU MIGHT WANNA TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.







IMAGINE COMING TO MIDTOWN FOR THE M&M STORE...

...AND GETTING TO CROSS THE LIZARD OFF YOUR MOST-WANTED LIST.



UH, TASKY? I FEEL LIKE WE ALREADY MET THE LIZARD, AND HE WAS TALLER?

JUST TAKE THE WIN, ANT.



STEP ON BACK, OFFICERS-- ANIMAL CONTROL'S GOT THIS ONE HANDLED.

OUR LAST PICKUP AND NOW HE COMES UP WITH ANIMAL CONTROL. SERIOUSLY? COME ON, KID.



LET'S GET BACK TO THE FREIGHTER WITH THE OTHERS--

--THE BOSSES WILL BE THRILLED TO SEE YOU.



YEAH--

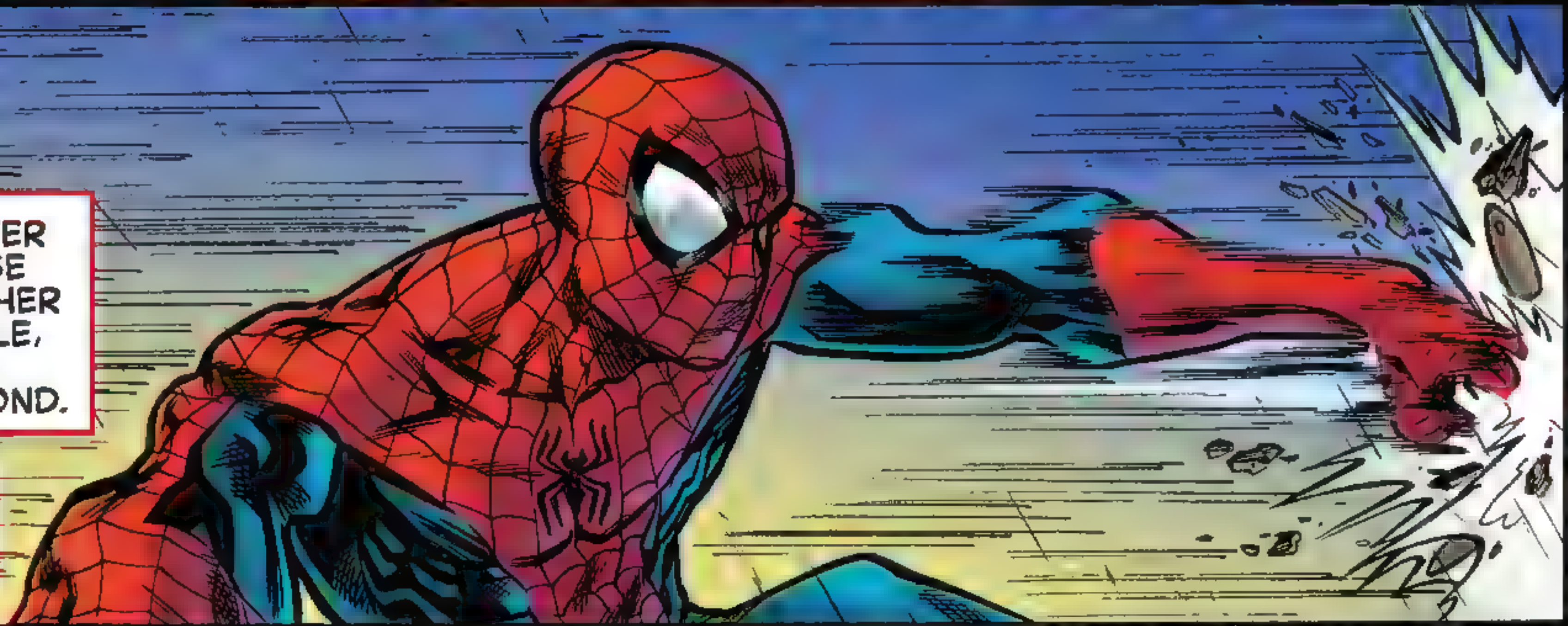


--THAT MAKES THE NEWS.

I'M TOO LATE!

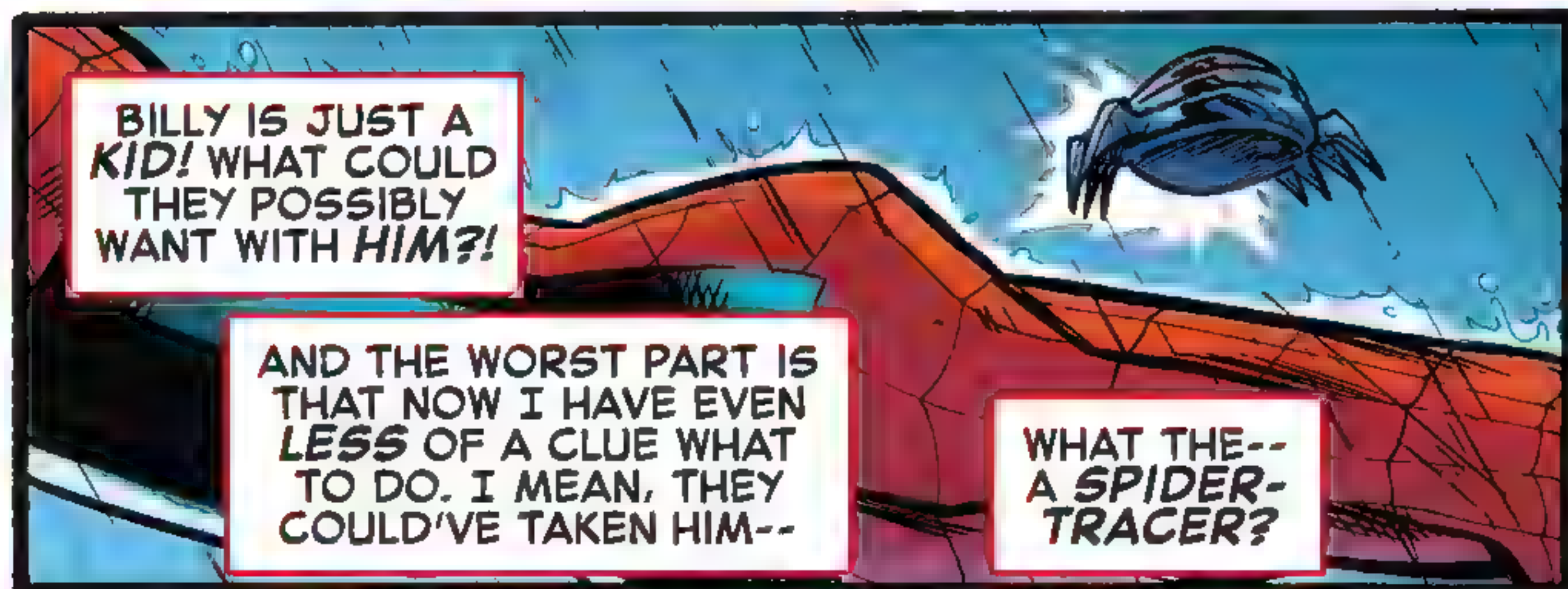
THIS IS MY FAULT! TASKMASTER AND BLACK ANT--I HAD THOSE GUYS DEAD TO RIGHTS THE OTHER DAY--BUT MAY WAS IN TROUBLE, THAT BUILDING WAS GONNA COLLAPSE ON HER AT ANY SECOND.

HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE. I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO--



--BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE THIS HURT ANY LESS.

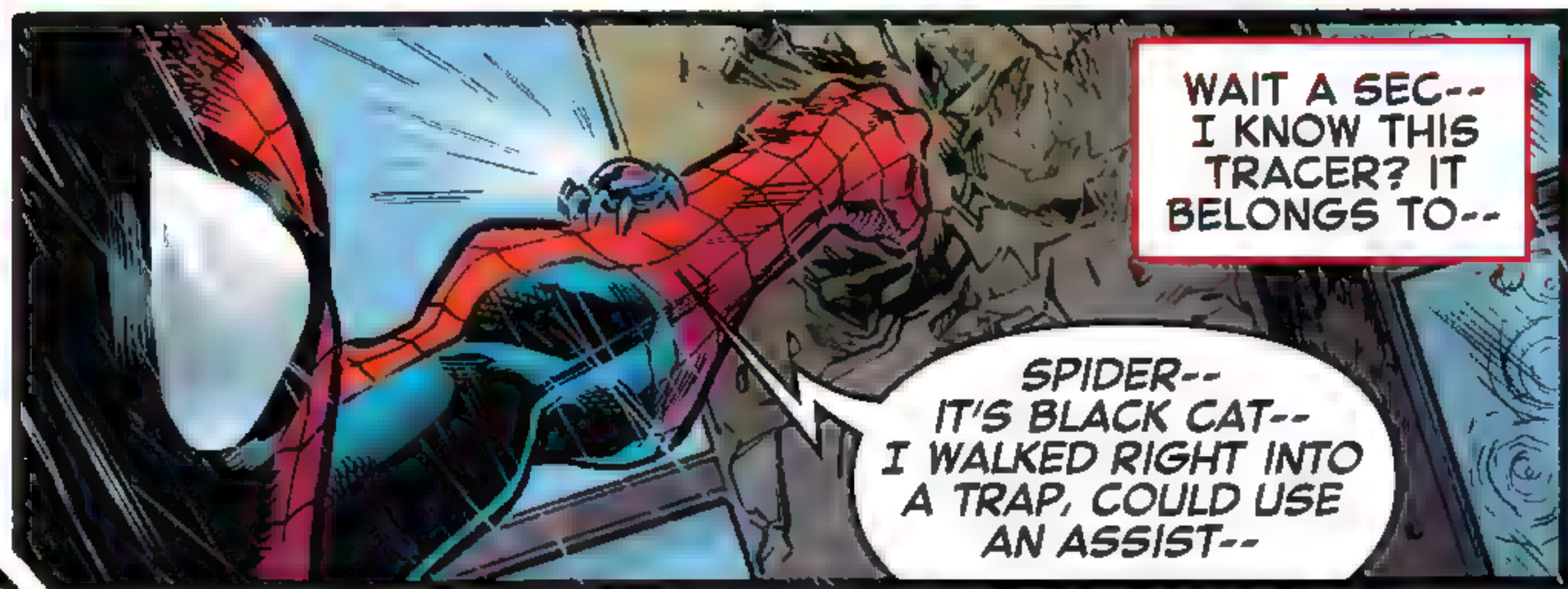
MOST OF THE GUYS THOSE TWO MERCS HAVE BEEN SNATCHING UP ARE HARDENED CRIMINALS--



BILLY IS JUST A KID! WHAT COULD THEY POSSIBLY WANT WITH HIM?!

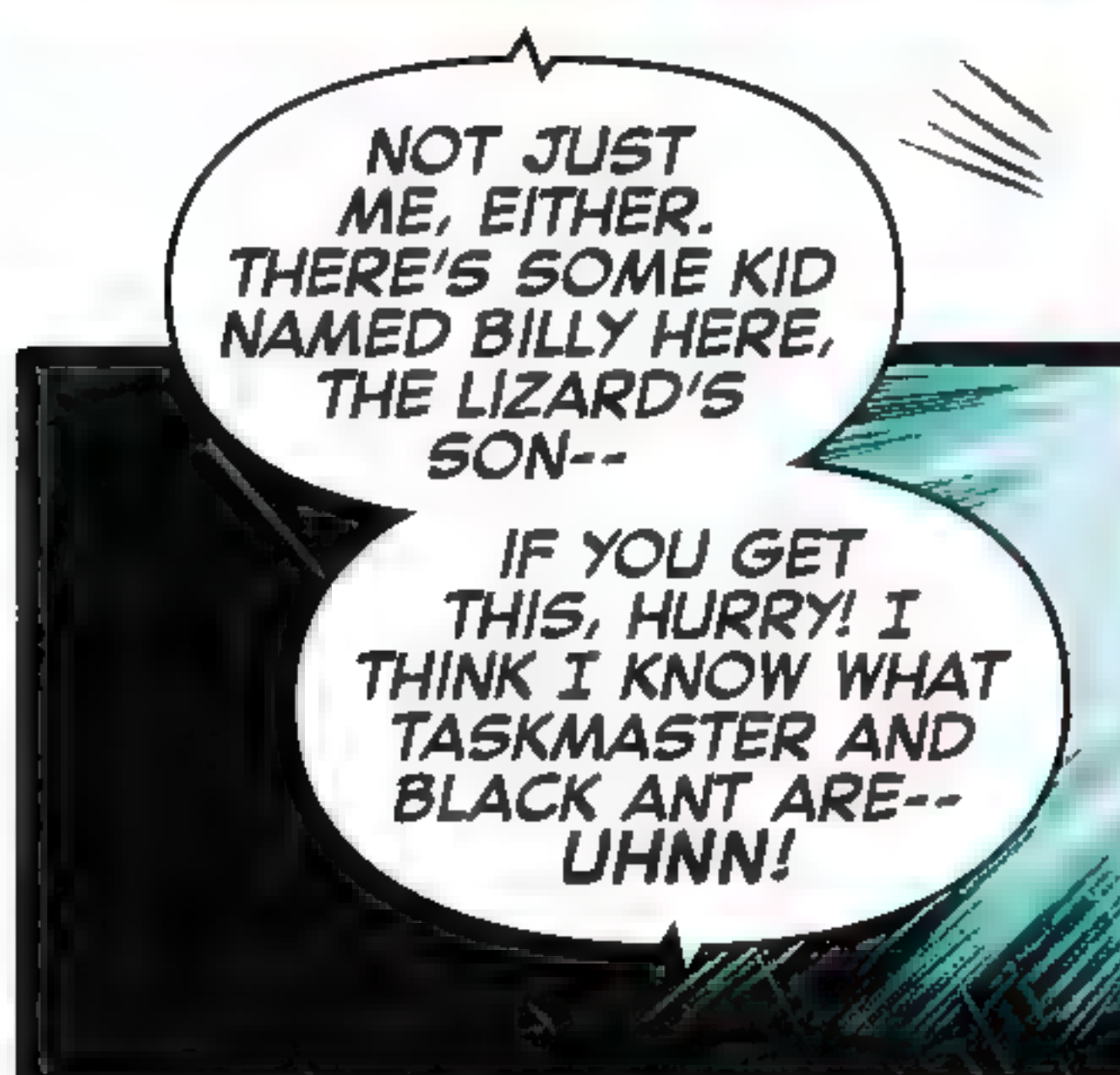
AND THE WORST PART IS THAT NOW I HAVE EVEN LESS OF A CLUE WHAT TO DO. I MEAN, THEY COULD'VE TAKEN HIM--

WHAT THE-- A SPIDER-TRACER?



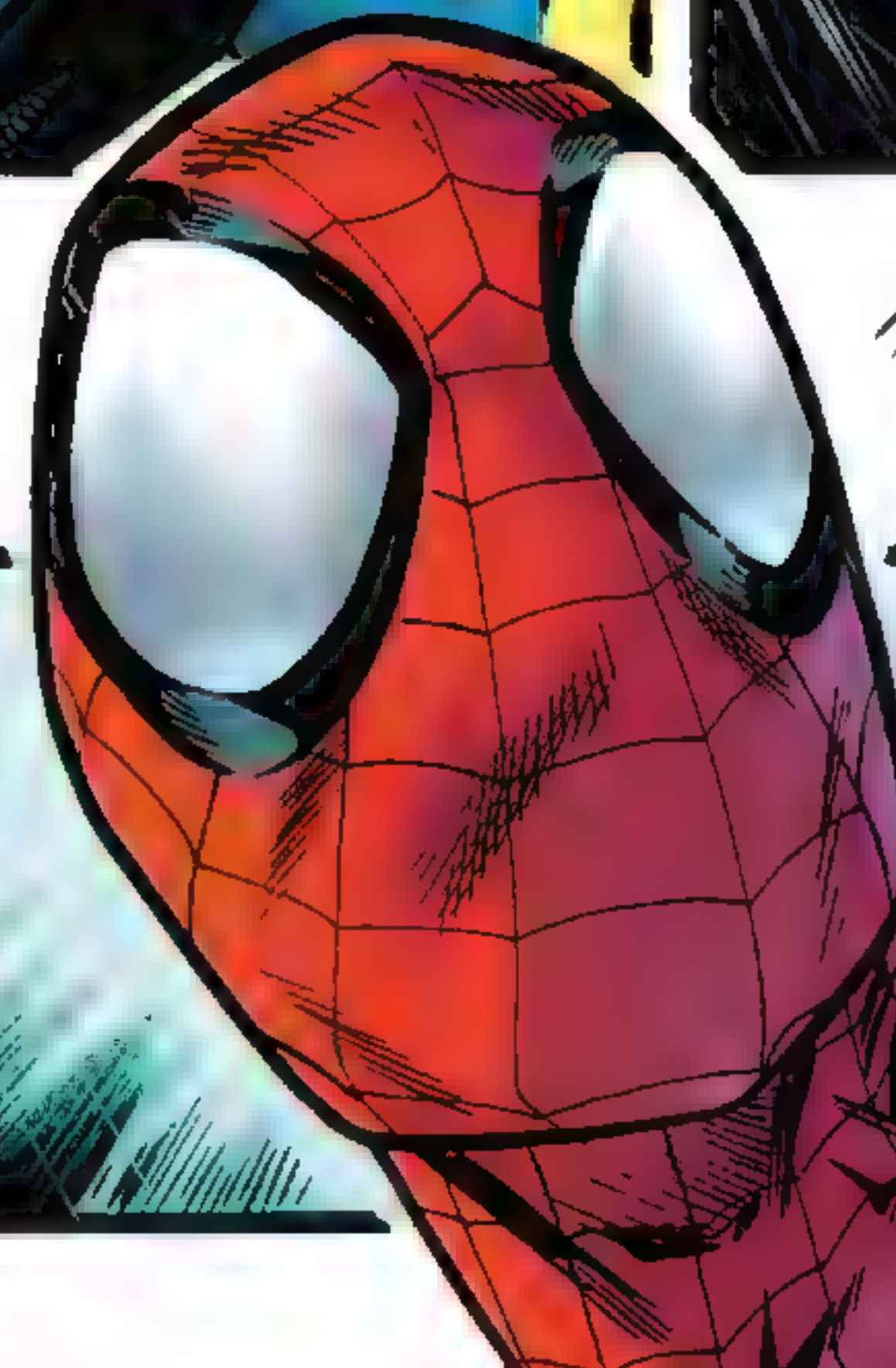
WAIT A SEC-- I KNOW THIS TRACER? IT BELONGS TO--

SPIDER-- IT'S BLACK CAT-- I WALKED RIGHT INTO A TRAP, COULD USE AN ASSIST--



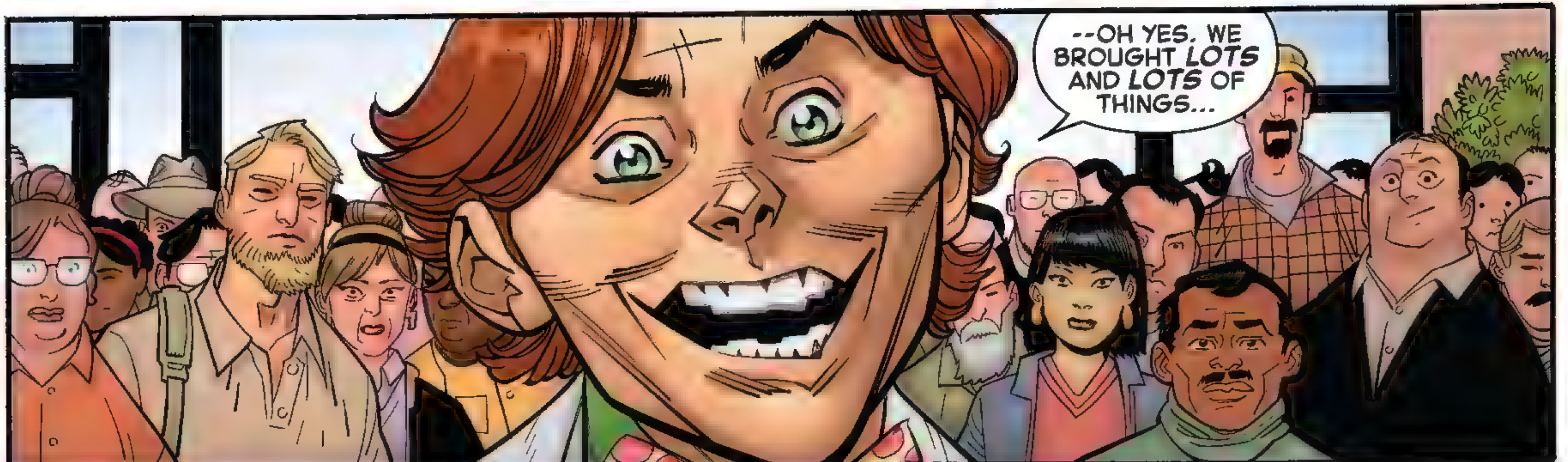
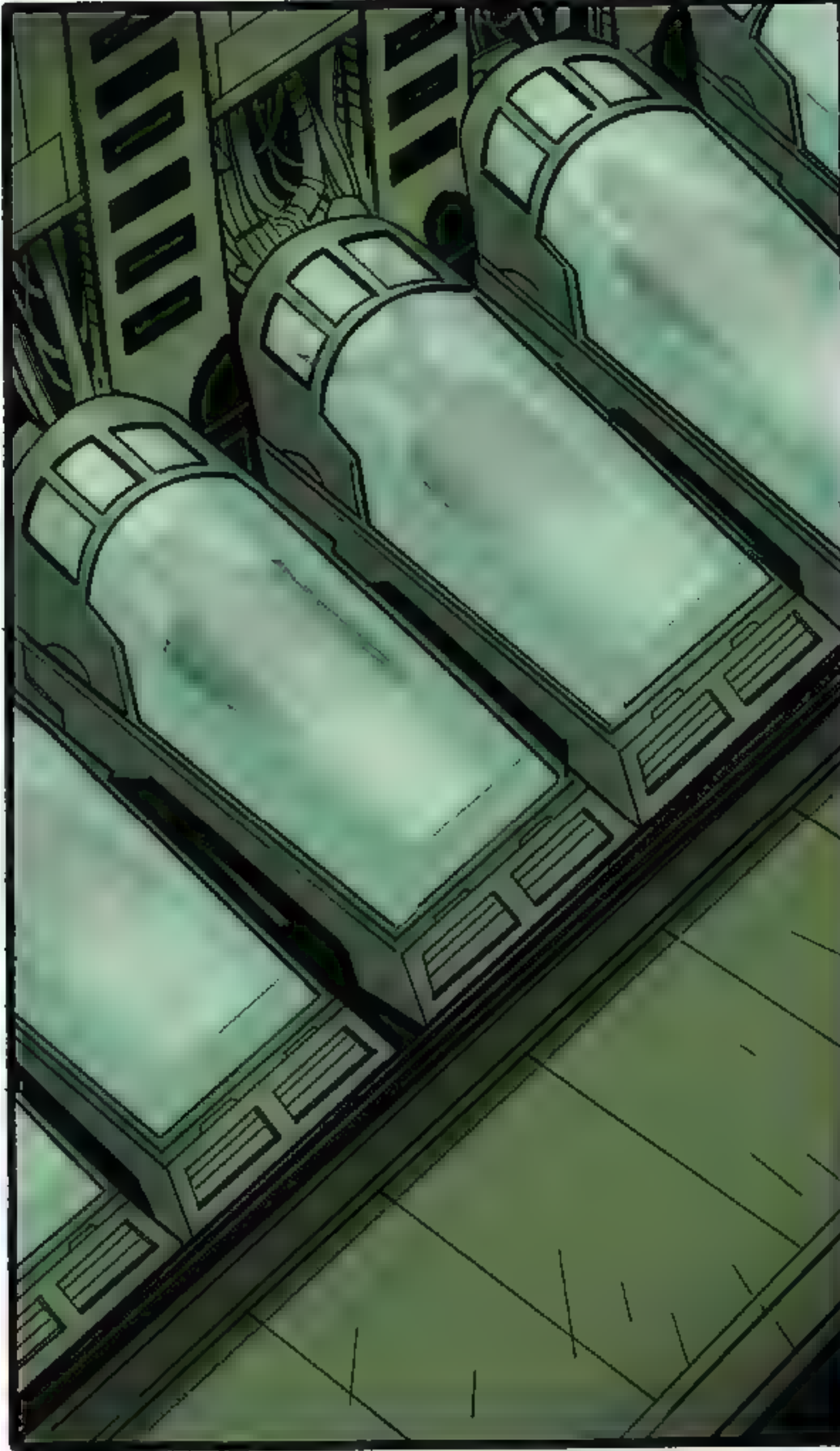
NOT JUST ME, EITHER. THERE'S SOME KID NAMED BILLY HERE, THE LIZARD'S SON--

IF YOU GET THIS, HURRY! I THINK I KNOW WHAT TASKMASTER AND BLACK ANT ARE-- UHNN!



THE TRACER SENDS ME THEIR COORDINATES. SO AT LEAST I HAVE A LEAD. THAT SHOULD GIVE ME HOPE--

--BUT ALL I CAN FEEL IS DREAD. LIKE SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS COMING.





16.HU

MY NAME IS
FELICIA HARDY,
A.K.A. THE
BLACK CAT.

AND YEAH, I
KNOW--THIS IS
NOT HOW I
USUALLY DO
THINGS.

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE THE
WORLD'S GREATEST
CAT BURGLAR, RIGHT?

SKULKING AROUND
IN THE SHADOWS,
COMING AND GOING
WITHOUT A TRACE.

THAT'S
MY WHOLE
BRAND.

SO WHY DID I BUST
INTO THIS PLACE FULL
OF ARMED *MAGGIA*
GOONS AND START
THROWING PUNCHES?

WELL, TRUTH
BE TOLD--

--I HAVE A LOT OF
UNCHECKED AGGRESSION
I NEED TO GET OUT OF
MY SYSTEM RIGHT NOW.

BUT WHAT COULD
POSSIBLY GET UNDER THE
SKIN OF A NOTORIOUSLY
COOL CUSTOMER LIKE
MYSELF? ONE GUESS.
THAT'S RIGHT--

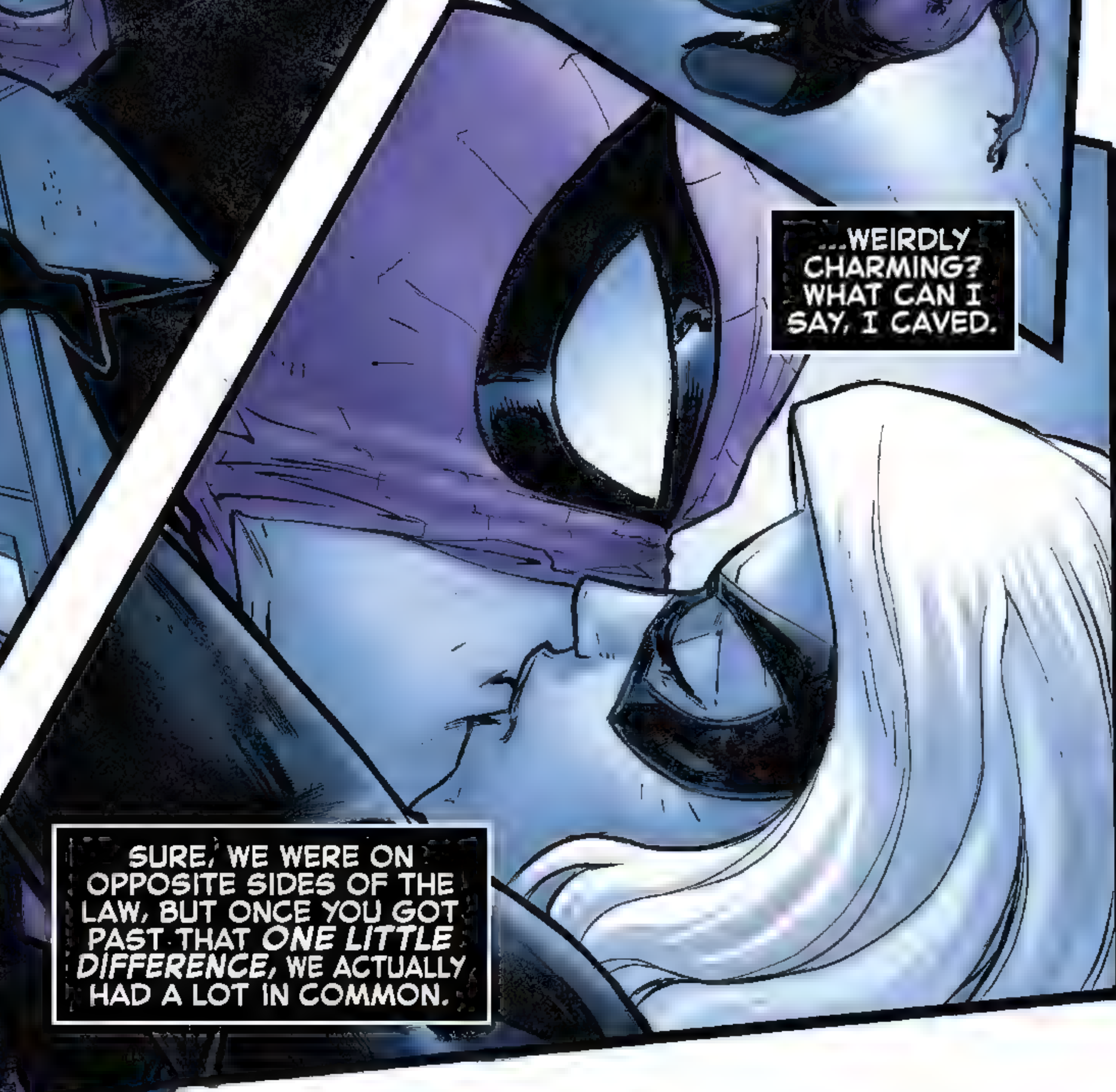


--MY #6%2
EX-BOYFRIEND!

THE *SPIDER*. I
USED TO BE IN A
RELATIONSHIP WITH
SPIDER-MAN, HAPLESS
DO-GOODER SUPER
HERO EXTRAORDINAIRE.
AND IF THAT SOUNDS
LIKE A REALLY TERRIBLE
DECISION FROM
THE OUTSIDE--



--JUST KNOW IT
SEEMED THAT WAY
TO ME AT FIRST
TOO. I MEAN, WE
DIDN'T EXACTLY
GET ALONG AT
THE START, ME
BEING--WELL, ME,
AND HIM BEING...

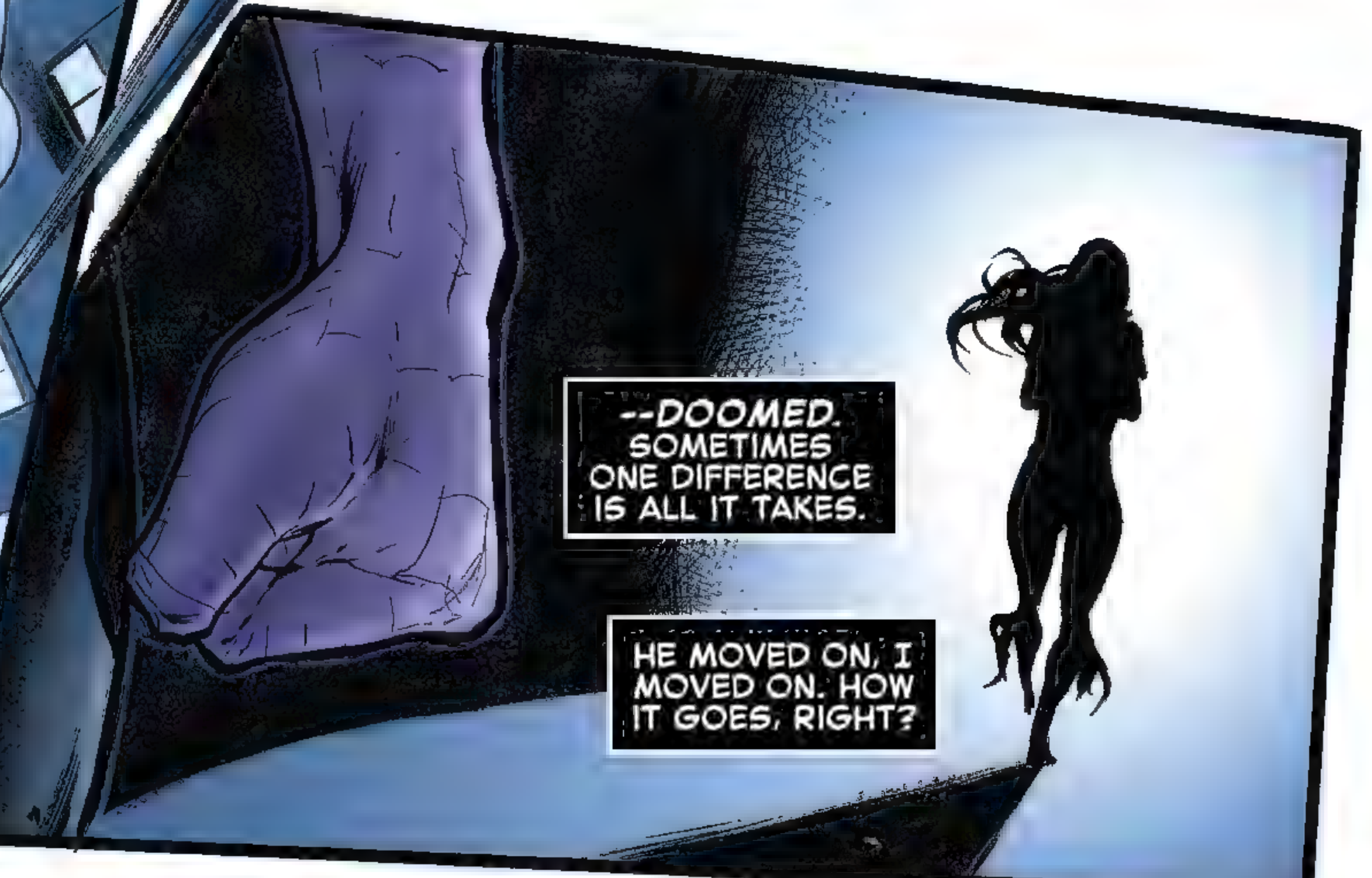


...WEIRDLY
CHARMING?
WHAT CAN I
SAY, I CAVED.



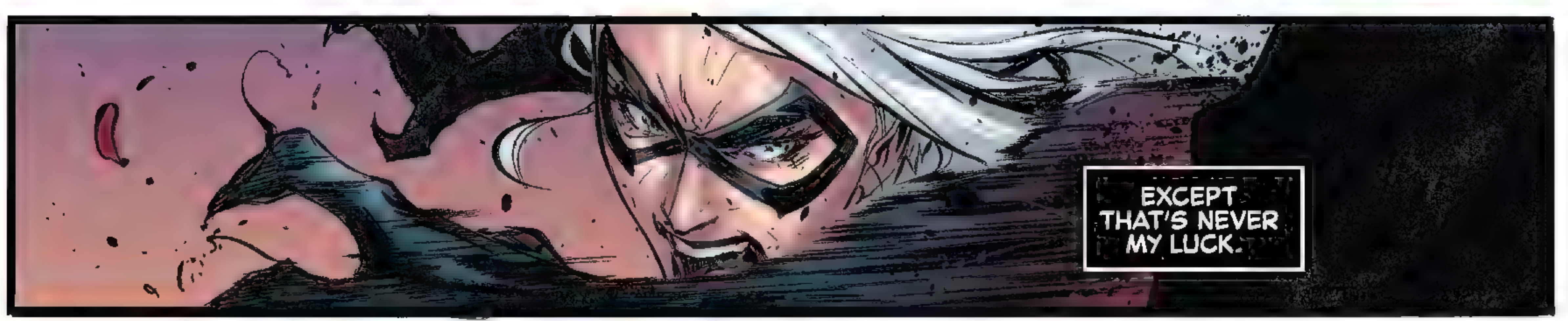
SURE, WE WERE ON
OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE
LAW, BUT ONCE YOU GOT
PAST THAT *ONE LITTLE*
DIFFERENCE, WE ACTUALLY
HAD A LOT IN COMMON.

SWINGING THROUGH
THE CITY TOGETHER,
DANCING IN THE
MOONLIGHT. AND
THOSE ROOFTOPS...
IT WAS GOOD ENOUGH
TO CONVINCE ME IT
WASN'T--IT WASN'T--



--DOOMED.
SOMETIMES
ONE DIFFERENCE
IS ALL IT TAKES.

HE MOVED ON, I
MOVED ON. HOW
IT GOES, RIGHT?



EXCEPT
THAT'S NEVER
MY LUCK.

HE GOT HIMSELF IN SOME BIG TROUBLE AND ENDED UP GETTING DOCTOR STRANGE TO CAST A SPELL ON HIS BEHALF--

ONE THAT MADE THE ENTIRE WORLD FORGET WHO HE WAS UNDER THE MASK. THE ENTIRE WORLD--



--INCLUDING ME.

SUDDENLY I COULDN'T REMEMBER THE FACE OF A MAN I'D--OKAY, I'LL SAY IT--

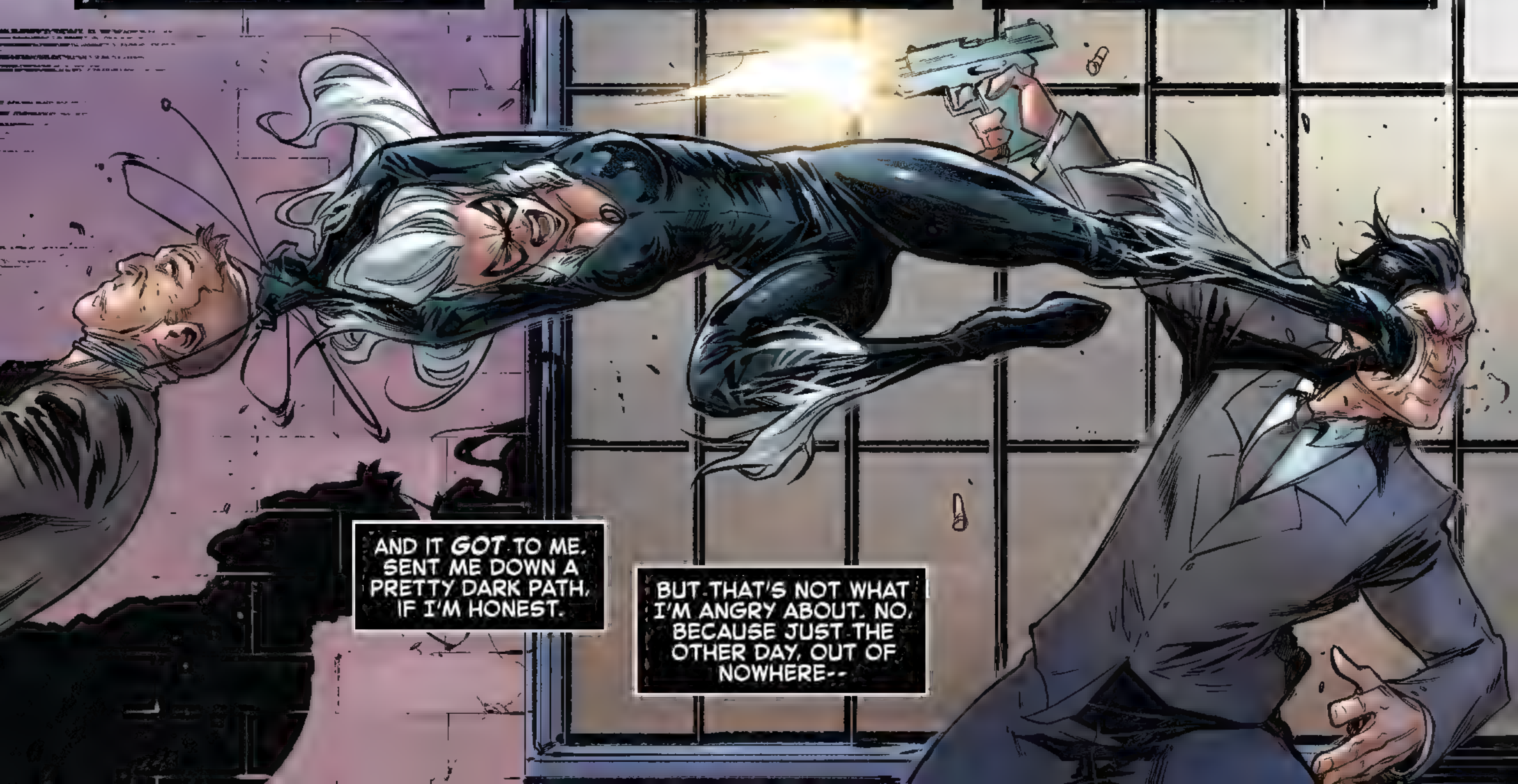


--A MAN I LOVED.

TIMES WE'D SPENT TOGETHER. MOMENTS WE'D SHARED WERE NOW FOGGY, OR EVEN WORSE--



--GONE ENTIRELY. IN FACT, AT FIRST I COULDN'T EVEN TELL I WAS *MISSING* THINGS. BUT AFTER A WHILE, IT WAS CLEAR SOMETHING WAS WRONG.



AND IT GOT TO ME. SENT ME DOWN A PRETTY DARK PATH. IF I'M HONEST.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ANGRY ABOUT. NO, BECAUSE JUST THE OTHER DAY, OUT OF NOWHERE--

--HE MADE THINGS RIGHT.

TOLD ME WHO HE WAS. AND JUST LIKE THAT, THE SPELL WAS LIFTED.



GOOD NEWS, YOU'D THINK. EXCEPT, AGAIN, THIS IS ME--



--AND THAT'S NOT HOW MY LUCK WORKS. EVER SINCE HE TOOK OFF THAT MASK, EVERY MEMORY I LOST, EVERY MOMENT I FORGOT--



--THEY WON'T STOP RUSHING BACK AT ME.

EVER HAVE A BREAKUP, AND THEN YEARS DOWN THE ROAD YOU FIND YOURSELF REMEMBERING THINGS ABOUT THAT PERSON AND THE TIME YOU'D HAD TOGETHER?

YEAH, THAT'S ME, ON A CONSTANT LOOP RIGHT NOW. AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY--

--NO MATTER HOW HARD I FIGHT, I CAN'T STOP IT. EVERY TIME I CLOSE MY EYES, I CAN'T STOP SEEING IT--

...SEEING
US.

I'M JUST
SAYING, HE'S
MY ARCHENEMY.
WELL, ONE OF
THEM, I
GUESS.

AND HOW
MANY TIMES DO I
HAVE TO FIGHT HIM
WITH YOU BEFORE
HE BECOMES MY
ARCHENEMY
TOO?

WAIT, YOU MEAN LIKE
SHARING HIM? LIKE
A CO-ARCHENEMY?
I DON'T LIKE THE
SOUND OF THAT.
NO WAY.

OOH,
SOMEBODY
SOUNDS
JEALOUS.

GUESS
YOU KNOW WHAT
A THING I HAVE
FOR THE BAD
BOYS.

DON'T
JOKE!

HEY, UM--
DON'T LET ME
FORGET--I NEED
TO GIVE YOU
SOMETHING
LATER--

I'M
RIGHT HERE,
SPIDER...

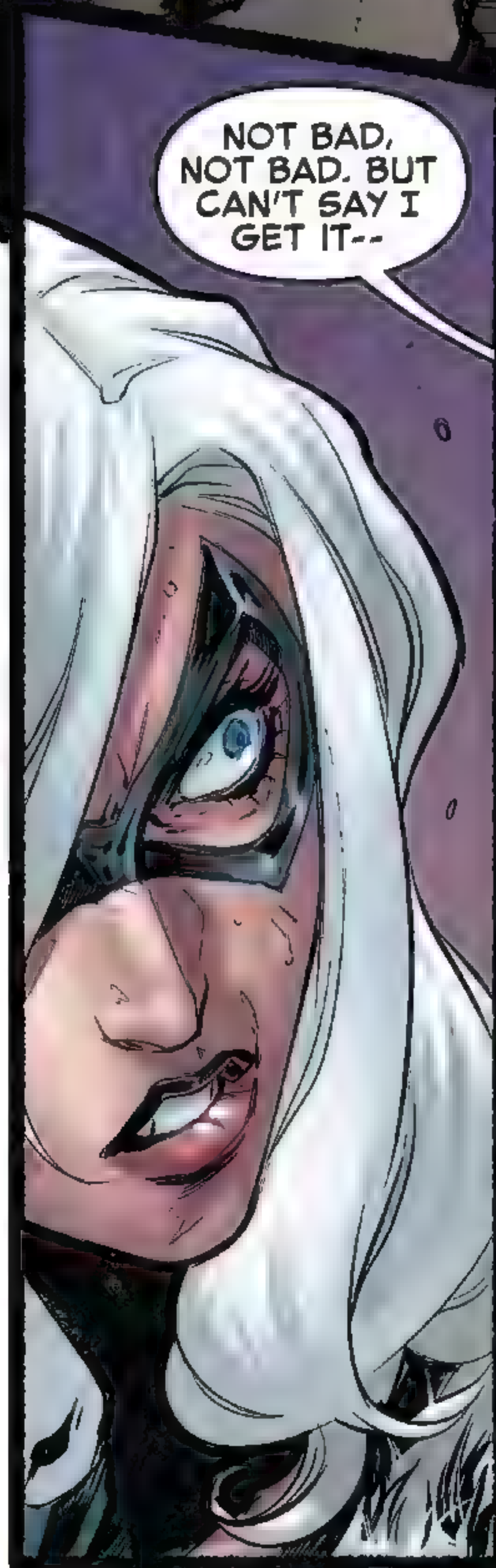
WHY
WAIT?

YEAH--

--IT'S
INFURIATING.



NOT BAD,
NOT BAD. BUT
CAN'T SAY I
GET IT--



--TREATING
YOUR FORMER
EMPLOYEES IN
SUCH A RUDE
MANNER.

HIYA,
BOSS.



HAMMERHEAD. TOUGH-AS-
NAILS MOB MUSCLE. USUALLY
THE GUY BEHIND THE GUY.
WORKED FOR SILVERMANE,
THE MAGGIA, AND, YES--

--ME!

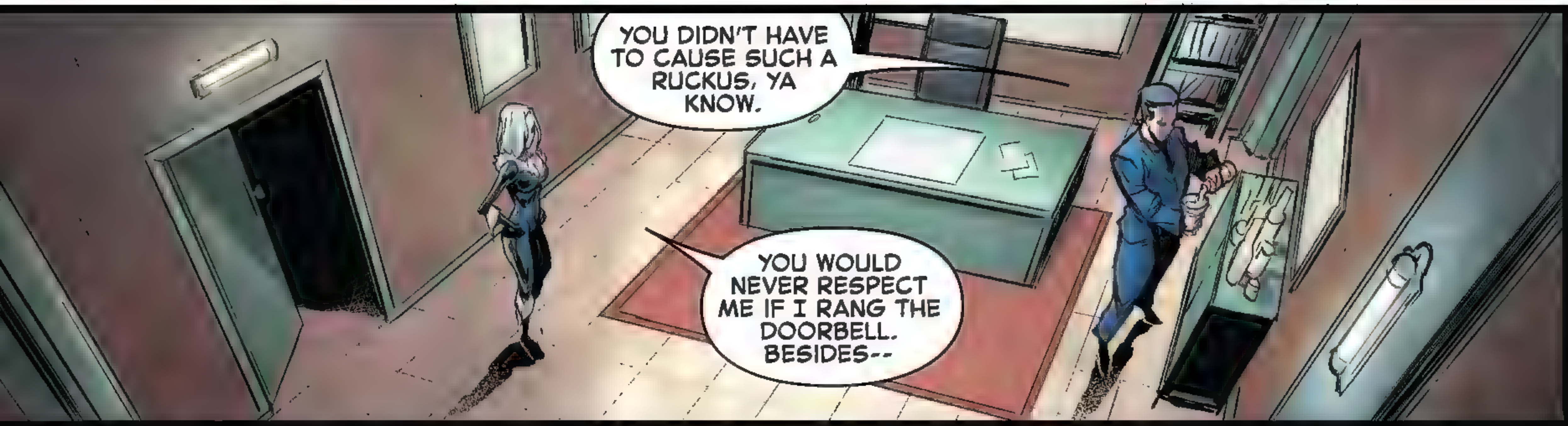
THAT DARK PATH I WAS TALKING
ABOUT BEFORE? IT INVOLVED ME
BECOMING THE **QUEENPIN OF
CRIME**, RUNNING THE NEW YORK
UNDERWORLD WITH HAMMERHEAD AS
MY RIGHT HAND. NEEDLESS TO SAY--



--WE DIDN'T
LEAVE IT ON THE
BEST TERMS.

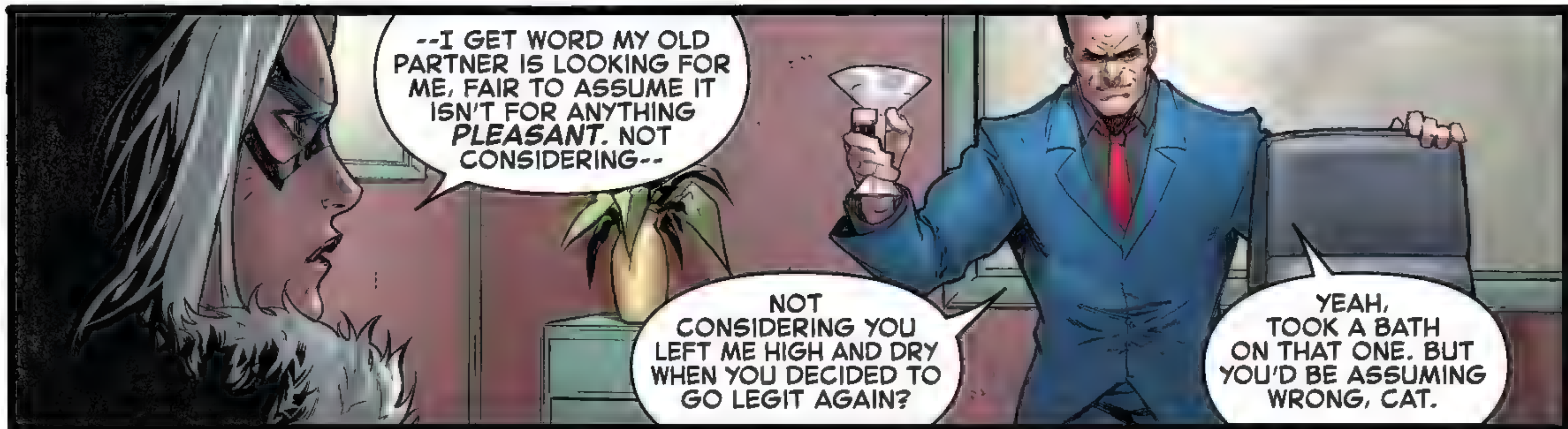
STEP INTO
MY OFFICE, YEAH?
PAST TIME WE
SETTLED OLD
DEBTS.





YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO CAUSE SUCH A RUCKUS, YA KNOW.

YOU WOULD NEVER RESPECT ME IF I RANG THE DOORBELL. BESIDES--



--I GET WORD MY OLD PARTNER IS LOOKING FOR ME, FAIR TO ASSUME IT ISN'T FOR ANYTHING PLEASANT. NOT CONSIDERING--

NOT CONSIDERING YOU LEFT ME HIGH AND DRY WHEN YOU DECIDED TO GO LEGIT AGAIN?

YEAH, TOOK A BATH ON THAT ONE. BUT YOU'D BE ASSUMING WRONG, CAT.



I'VE ACTUALLY RECOVERED QUITE NICELY SINCE OUR LITTLE DEAL FELL THROUGH. HAD FOUND MYSELF A NEW PARTNER--AN *EQUAL* PARTNER--

WHY DO I GET THE FEELING "HAD" IS THE OPERATIVE WORD, THERE?

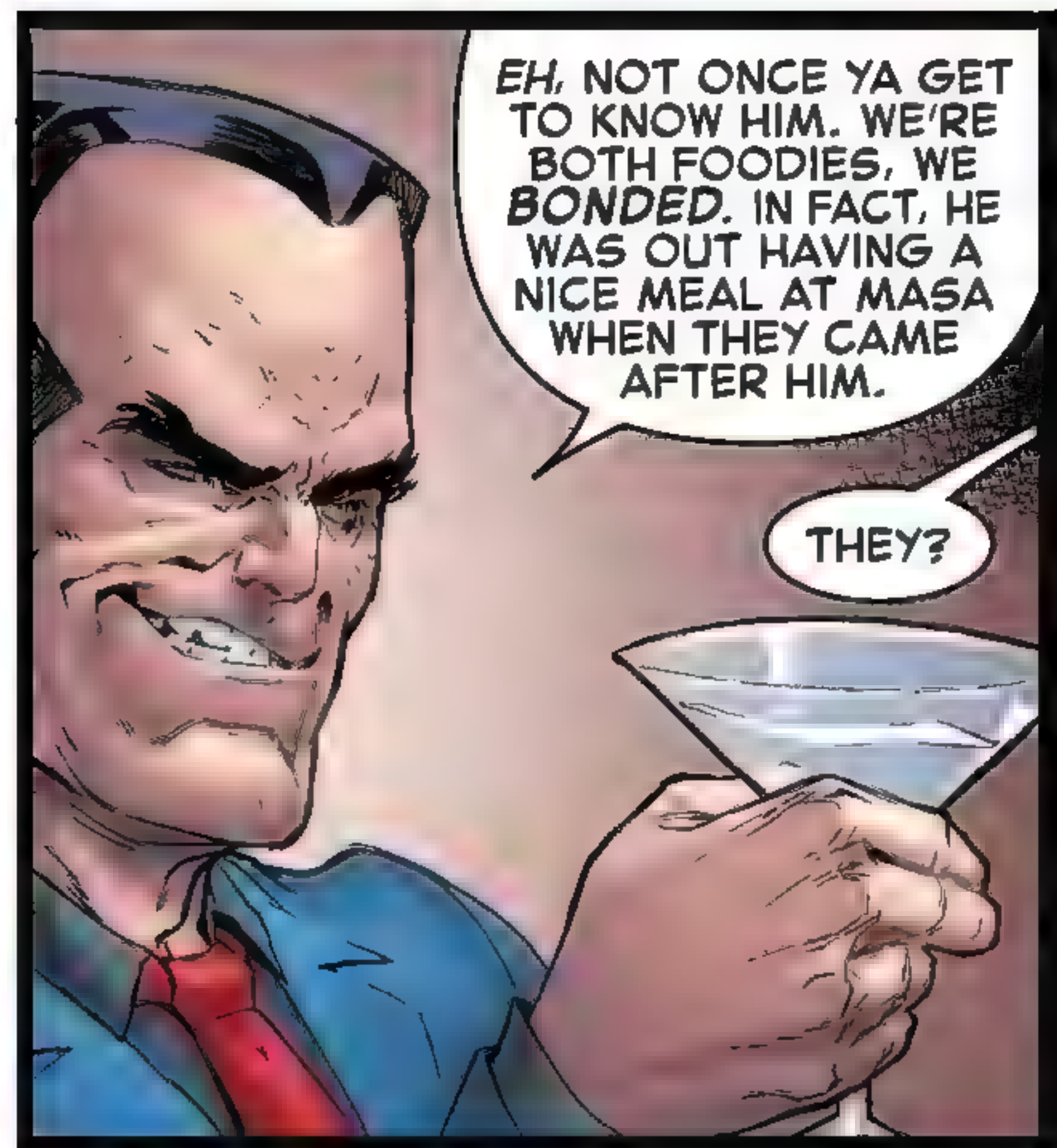
S'RIGHT--



--TIL HE GOT SNATCHED UP.

LELAND OWLSLEY.

HE'S A PRETTY SCARY DUDE.



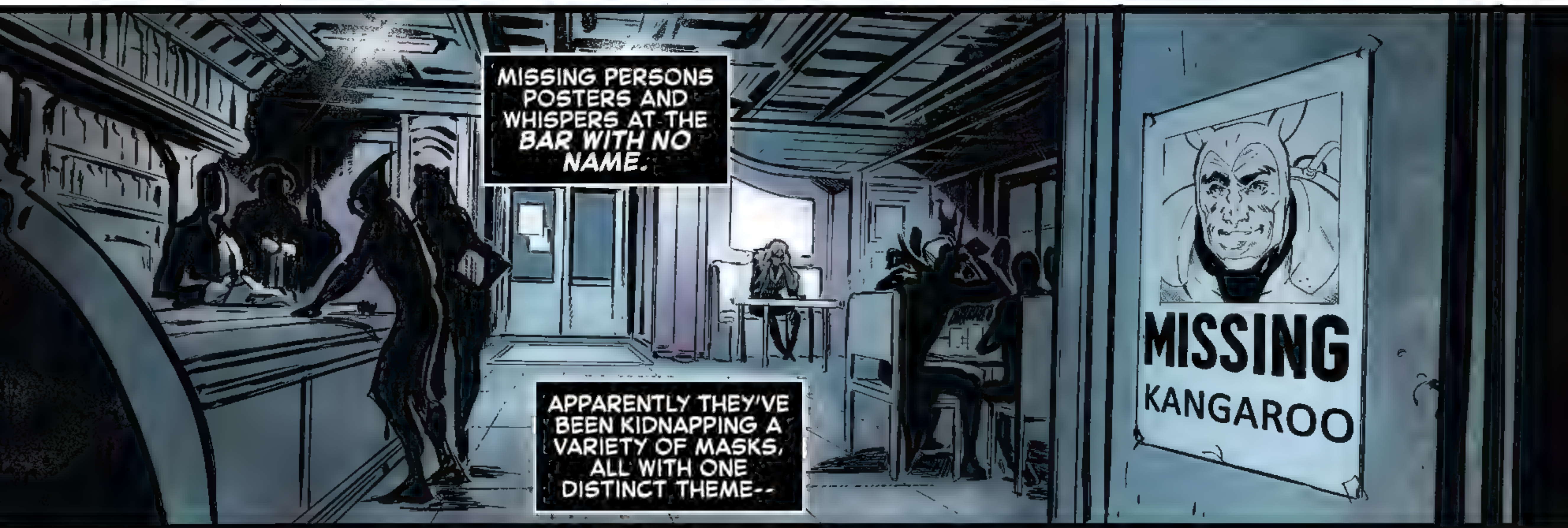
EH, NOT ONCE YA GET TO KNOW HIM. WE'RE BOTH FOODIES, WE *BONDED*. IN FACT, HE WAS OUT HAVING A NICE MEAL AT MASA WHEN THEY CAME AFTER HIM.

THEY?



YEAH. THESE TWO. YOU KNOW 'EM?

TASKMASTER AND THE BLACK ANT. BEEN HEARING THEIR NAMES QUITE A BIT LATELY.



MISSING PERSONS
POSTERS AND
WHISPERS AT THE
BAR WITH NO
NAME.

APPARENTLY THEY'VE
BEEN KIDNAPPING A
VARIETY OF MASKS,
ALL WITH ONE
DISTINCT THEME--

MISSING
KANGAROO



--AND THE OWL
CERTAINLY FITS
THE BILL.

SORRY
ABOUT YOUR LUCK
THERE, HAMMERHEAD,
BUT I'M STILL NOT
EXACTLY SURE WHAT
YOU WANT FROM
ME--

YOU KIDDING?
SOON AS IT
HAPPENED, I ASKED
MYSELF, THESE GUYS
STOLE MY NEW BUDDY,
WHO DO I KNOW
WHO'D BE THE BEST
AT STEALING
HIM BACK?



I SEE. AND
IF I DID THAT
FOR YOU--

OUR
SLATE WOULD
BE WIPED
CLEAN.

HM. DON'T
KNOW IF YOU
NOTICED YOUR
GUYS OUT THERE,
BUT IT'S LOOKING
PRETTY WIPED
CLEAN
ALREADY.



?SIGH? FINE. LOOK, I GOTTA
GET THE OWL BACK. RED
HOOK EXPANSION IS TOO
IMPORTANT. I NEED HIS
CONTACTS.

BUT LELAND,
WELL--YOU KNOW
HE'S ALWAYS HAD A
TASTE FOR THE
FINER THINGS.

NOT JUST
IN TERMS OF
WHAT HE STUFFS IN
HIS FACE--BUT THE
ART STUFF, SEE? AND
I HAPPEN TO KNOW
WHERE HE'S STORING
MOST OF IT.



BUT IF SOMEBODY WERE TO *LIBERATE*
SOME OF THEM ARTWORKS WHILE HE
WAS OTHERWISE INCAPACITATED, WELL,
I WOULDN'T KNOW ANYTHING
ABOUT THAT, WOULD I?

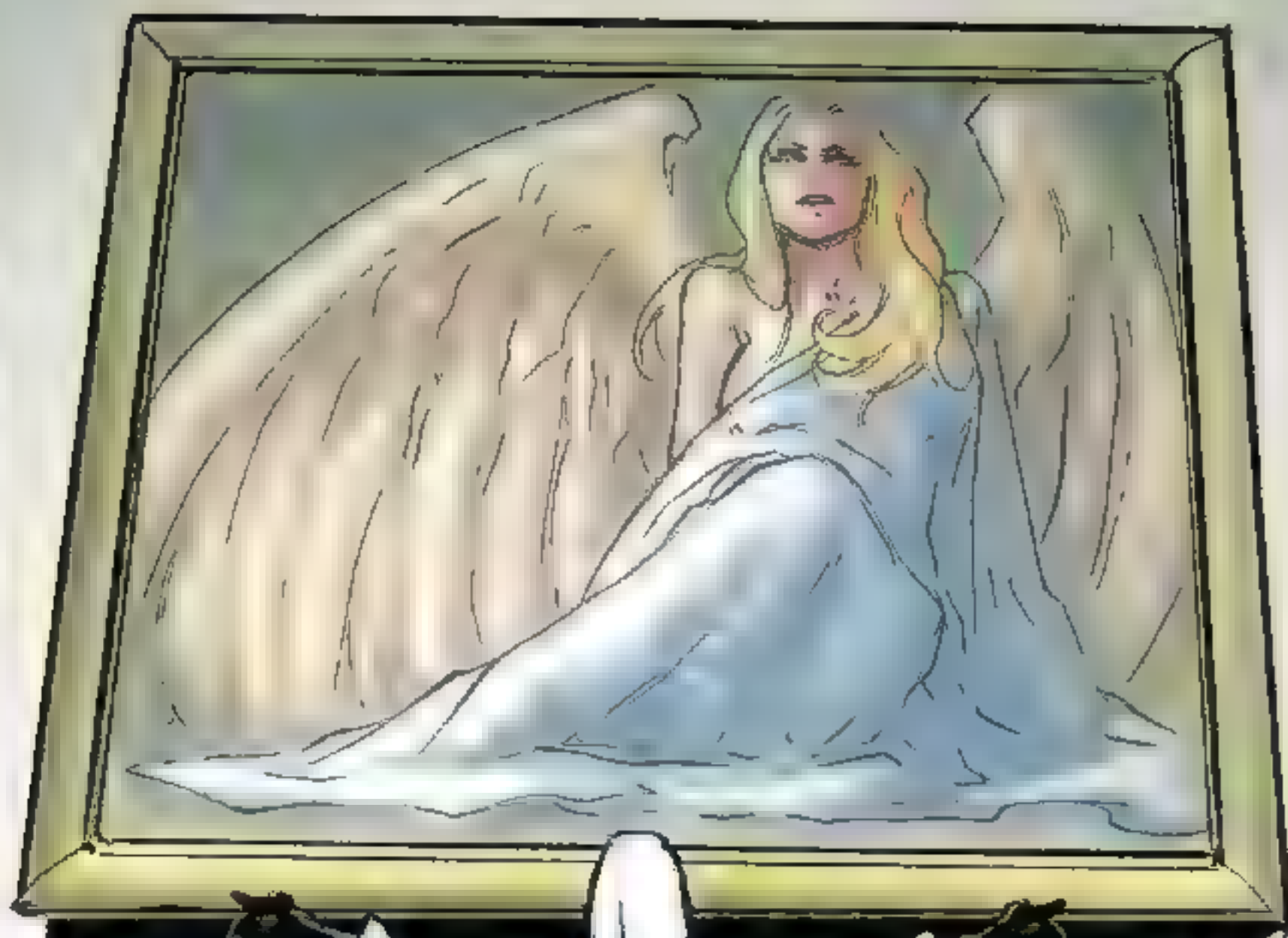
YEAH, THIS WOULD BE A BAD CALL.
ONCE YOU GET SUCKED BACK INTO
THIS WORLD--THIS WORLD YOU JUST
GOT OUT OF--WELL, YOU KNOW
WHERE IT'S GOING TO TAKE YOU--



JUST WALK OUT THAT
DOOR, FELICIA. TELL
HAMMERHEAD YOU'LL
PASS. AND GO HOME,
TRY TO FINALLY GET
SOME SLEEP, MAYBE
CATCH UP ON SOME--

WOW, LELAND,
YOU REALLY
DID HAVE
GOOD TASTE.

SO GOOD, IN FACT,
THAT THIS TEASE
HAMMERHEAD GAVE
UP MAKES ME PRETTY
HUNGRY FOR THE
REST OF THE HAUL...



...WHICH MEANS
IT'S TIME FOR
ME TO LIVE UP
TO MY END OF
THE DEAL.

BUT TRACKING DOWN TASKMASTER
AND BLACK ANT IS NO EASY JOB.
THESE ARE TWO FORMER S.H.I.E.L.D.
PROS GONE BAD--IF THEY DON'T
WANT TO BE FOUND, ODDS ARE
NOBODY IS GONNA.

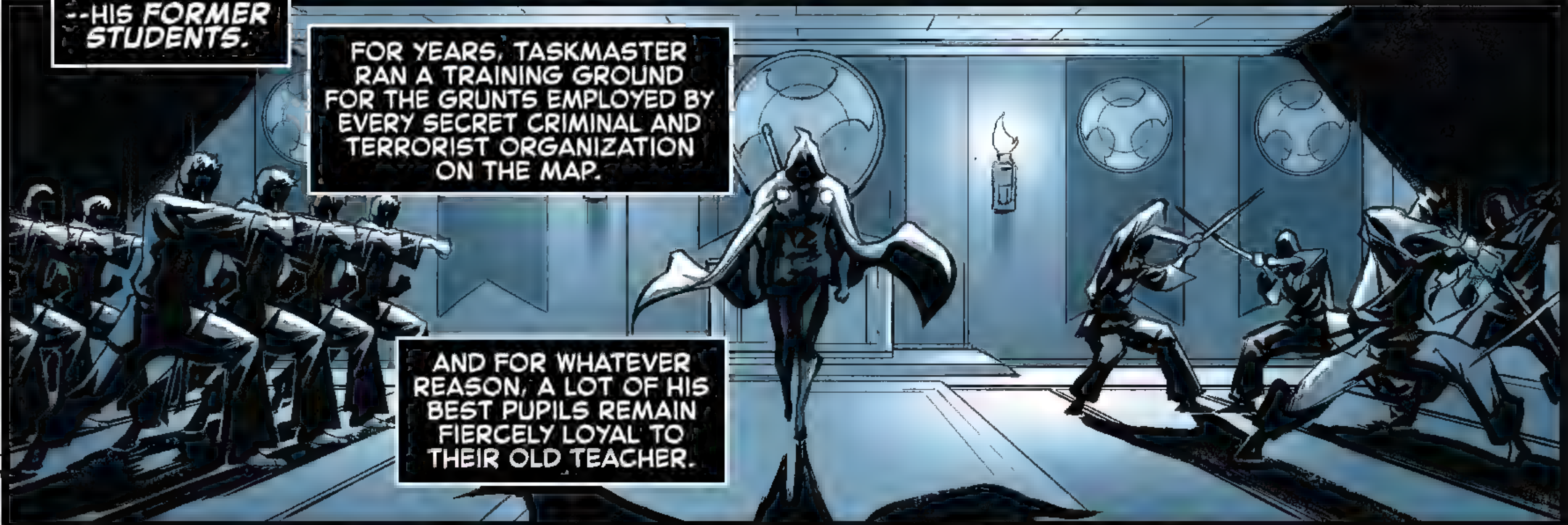
THANKFULLY, I DO HAVE
ONE LEAD. AS HATED AS
TASKMASTER MIGHT BE BY
JUST ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE,
THERE IS ONE GROUP THAT
WEIRDLY LOVES HIM--



--HIS FORMER
STUDENTS.

FOR YEARS, TASKMASTER
RAN A TRAINING GROUND
FOR THE GRUNTS EMPLOYED BY
EVERY SECRET CRIMINAL AND
TERRORIST ORGANIZATION
ON THE MAP.

AND FOR WHATEVER
REASON, A LOT OF HIS
BEST PUPILS REMAIN
FIERCELY LOYAL TO
THEIR OLD TEACHER.



WHAT ARE THE ODDS HE HASN'T
REACHED OUT TO ANY OF THEM
WHILE HE'S BACK IN NEW YORK?

AND GIVEN HOW MANY OF
THESE GUYS ARE CHARGED
WITH GUARDING VARIOUS
VAULTS AND STORAGE
FACILITIES AROUND TOWN,
OBVIOUSLY I'VE KEPT TABS
ON PLENTY OF THEM.



JUST TAKES A LONG
NIGHT OF SHAKING
THEM DOWN UNTIL ONE
TELLS ME TASKY'S PUT
TOGETHER A LITTLE
POKER GAME--

--AT THE
PORT OF
NEW YORK.

NOT EXACTLY YOUR
NORMAL CHOICE OF
VENUE FOR AN ALUMNI
REUNION.

BUT THEN, THESE
GUYS ARE PRETTY
UNUSUAL.

FROM HERE IT'S
JUST A MATTER
OF PLANTING A
LISTENING DEVICE
TO KEEP AN EAR
ON THEM...

WHEN
ARE THESE
SCHLUBS
GETTING HERE,
MASTERS?!

HEY,
NOW. WELL-
TRAINED
SCHLUBS.

...HACKING
INTO THEIR
SYSTEM AND
FINDING THE
OWL'S CELL.
WHICH LEADS
ME--

--HERE.

WHATEVER
THIS IS THAT
TASKMASTER AND
BLACK ANT ARE
INVOLVED IN, IT'S
BIG. SCARY BIG.

BEST MOVE
FAST AND GET
CLEAR BEFORE
THINGS GET--

≡SNIFF≡



--MESSY.

?!

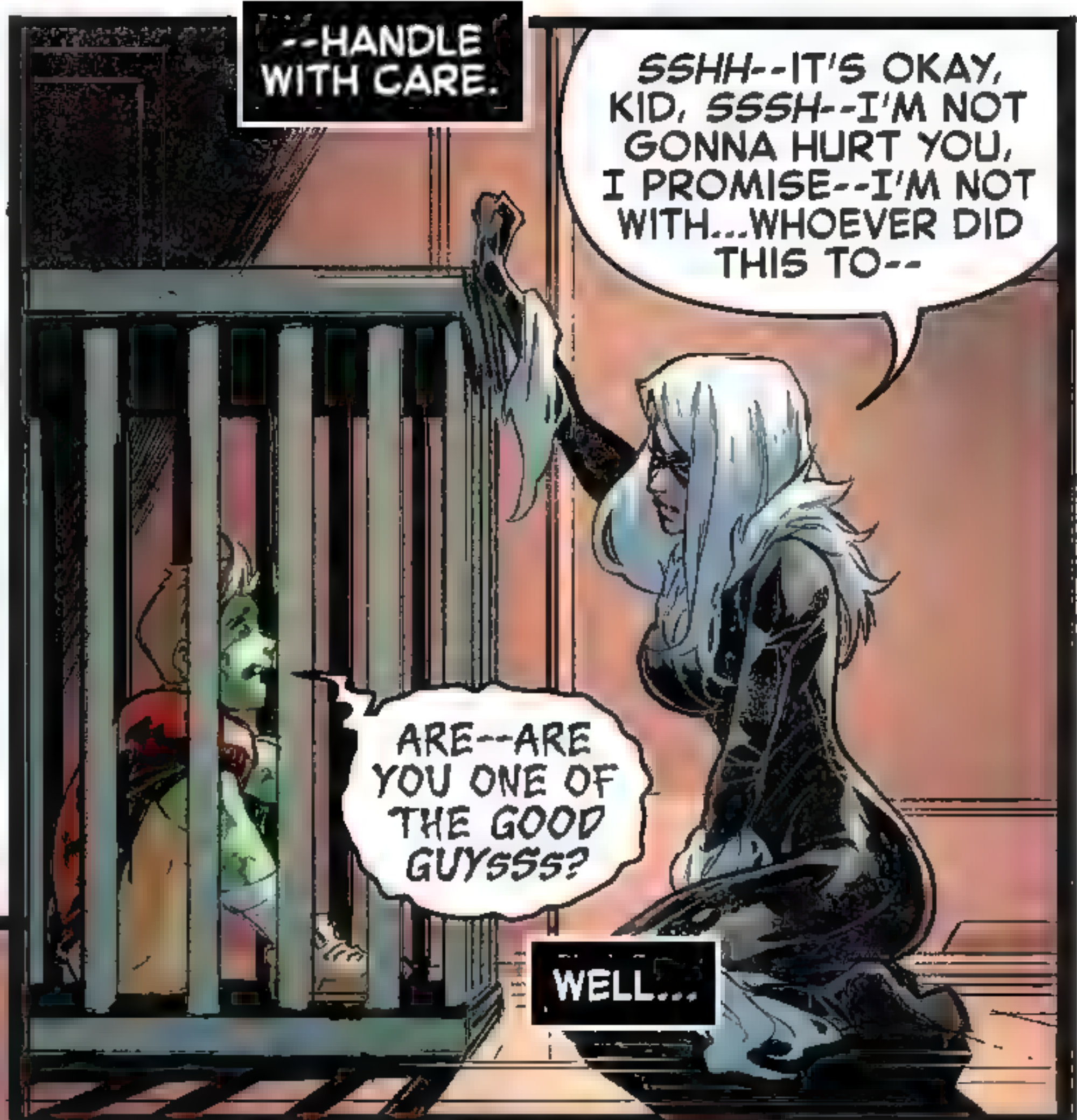
I'M SSSORRY
I'M SSSORRY
I'M SSSORRY--

SOME KIND
OF REPTILE
MONSTER?
NO--



--A LITTLE
BOY, SCARED
AND LOCKED UP
IN A CAGE.

SO GO EASY, FELICIA.
JUST LIKE WHEN YOU'RE
LIFTING A FABERGE EGG--



--HANDLE
WITH CARE.

SSHH--IT'S OKAY,
KID, SSSH--I'M NOT
GONNA HURT YOU,
I PROMISE--I'M NOT
WITH...WHOEVER DID
THIS TO--

ARE--ARE
YOU ONE OF
THE GOOD
GUYSSS?

WELL...



I SURE AM--
IN FACT, I'M
HERE WITH A WHOLE
TEAM OF GOOD GUYS.
IT'S A RESCUE
MISSION.

OH--
OH COOL!
IS SPIDER-MAN
HERE? I KNOW
SPIDER-MAN!

BECAUSE
OF COURSE
YOU DO.



TELL HIM
IT'SSS BILLY
CONNORSSS. HE,
UM, HE KNOWSSS
MY DAD.

HIS DAD... I THOUGHT I
DETECTED A RESEMBLANCE.
OKAY, TIME TO GET OUT OF
HERE BEFORE ANY MORE OF
THE LIZARD FAMILY DECIDES
TO SHOW--



YOU KNOW WHAT? I KNOW SPIDER-MAN, TOO, BILLY. AND I'M JUST GONNA GO GET HIM AND THE OTHERS--THEY'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE. IN THE MEANTIME, CAN YOU DO SOMETHING FOR ME?

UH--
UH-HUH...



I NEED YOU TO STAY **VERY QUIET** WHILE I FIND REINFORCEMENTS, OKAY? NOT A PEEP. UNDERSTAND?

O-KAY--

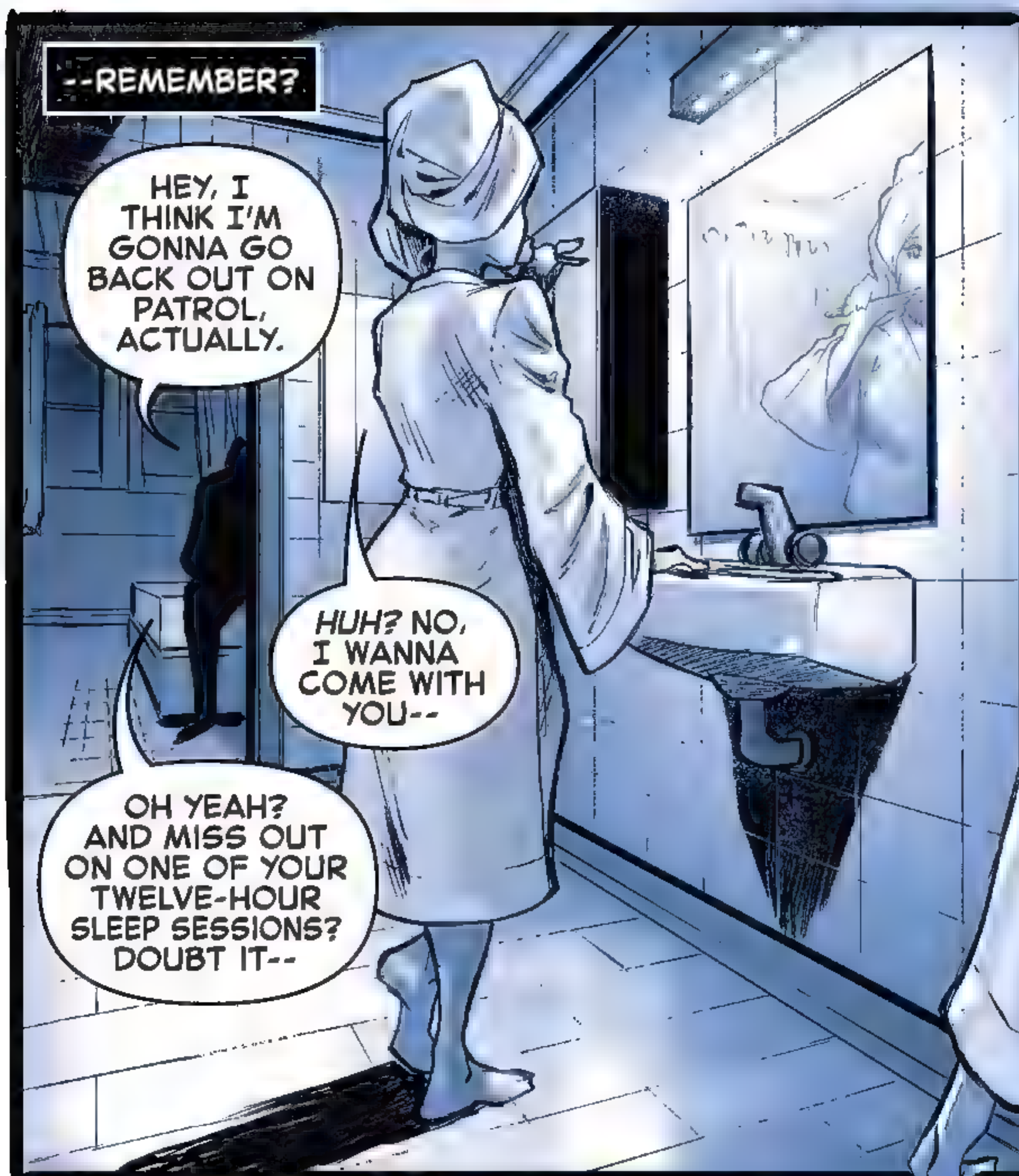


GOOD. HANG IN THERE, KIDDO.



--SO **FOCUS**. THE SECOND YOU'RE OUT OF THIS, YOU CAN CALL EVERY DO-GOODER IN TIGHTS AND TELL THEM ABOUT THIS OPERATION--THE AVENGERS, THE DEFENDERS, AND YES--EVEN HIM.

LET **THEM** HANDLE THE SAVING-THE-DAY STUFF. YOU'VE GOT PROBLEMS OF YOUR OWN--



--REMEMBER?

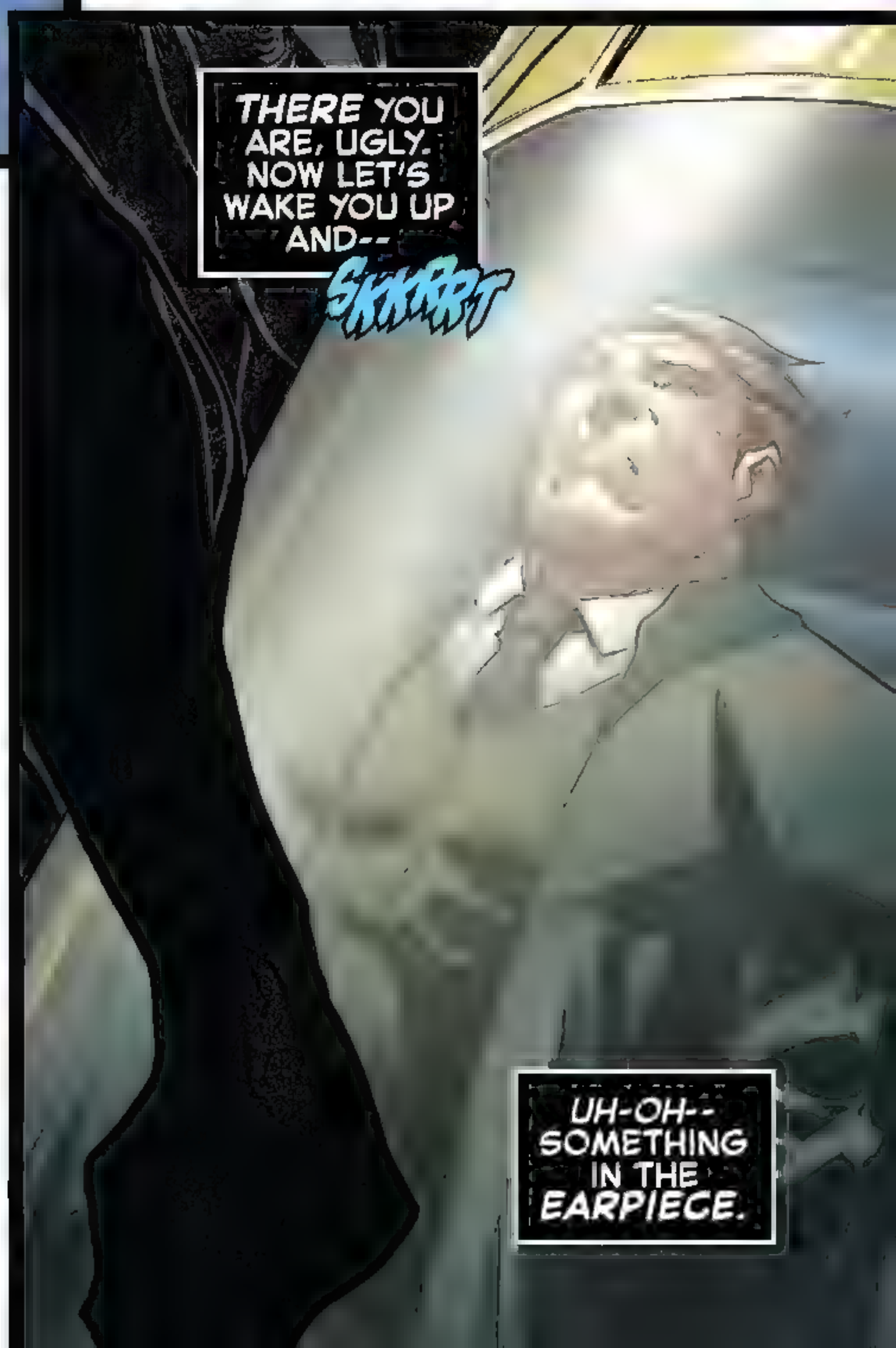
HEY, I THINK I'M GONNA GO BACK OUT ON PATROL, ACTUALLY.

HUH? NO, I WANNA COME WITH YOU--

OH YEAH? AND MISS OUT ON ONE OF YOUR TWELVE-HOUR SLEEP SESSIONS? DOUBT IT--



EXCUSE ME?! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU--



DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A GAME.

NO, NO, NO, NO!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE
KIDDING ME. WHAT IS
GOING ON WITH MY
LUCK THESE DAYS?!

NO. GET
SERIOUS.
NOT *NEARLY*
ENOUGH TIME.
AND LELAND
HERE WOULD
PROBABLY TRY
TO EAT HIM
ANYHOW.

YOU'VE
GOT A
CHOICE TO
MAKE--

THAT'S IT,
I'M OUT. 'SIDES,
BOSS WANTS US
TO MAKE A SPECIAL
DELIVERY--THAT
KID. I'LL GO
GET 'IM--

OKAY, THINK,
FELICIA--MAYBE
YOU GET OWL
HERE OUT THEN
DOUBLE BACK
FOR THE--

--NO CHOICE
AT ALL.

OKAY,
KIDDO--
CHANGE OF
PLANS. YOU'RE
COMING
WITH ME.

REALLY?! IS
SPIDER-MAN
HERE?

NO--

--GUESS
I'LL HAVE
TO DO.

GUESS
SO. IF IT
HELPS--

--I WAS
FOLLOWING YOU
THE WHOLE TIME,
AND I *GENUINELY* DID
NOT THINK YOU'D
COME BACK FOR
THE BRAT.

KUNG

PRETTY
INSPIRING.

AND IT
MEANS YOU
OWE ME A
COOL
TWENTY.

YOU BETCHA.
YOU'RE A TOUGH
ONE TO TRACK DOWN,
CAT. BUT DANGLE
THE RIGHT KIND OF
BAIT IN FRONT
OF YOU--

--WHICH
IS WHERE I
CAME IN.

THE TWO
OF YOU THE
WHOLE TIME--
TRAP?

HAMMERHEAD...

HEY,
BOSS.

I TOLD 'EM
I'D ONLY HELP IF I GOT
TO WATCH. YOU REMEMBER
WHEN YOU LEFT ME HIGH
AND DRY? WELL, PAYBACK'S
A YOU. BUT DON'T
WORRY--

--I WASN'T
LYING ABOUT HOW
WELL I'M DOING.
WHEN YOU SEE
THE OWL--

--TELL HIM
I'M GONNA TAKE
REAL GOOD CARE
OF HIS TURF.

BETWEEN US, WE HAD A BIG
DEBATE ABOUT HIM, TOO.
I MEAN, "HAMMERHEAD"?
LIKE THE SHARK?

BUT HE
HADN'T REALLY
COMMITTED TO
THE THEME.

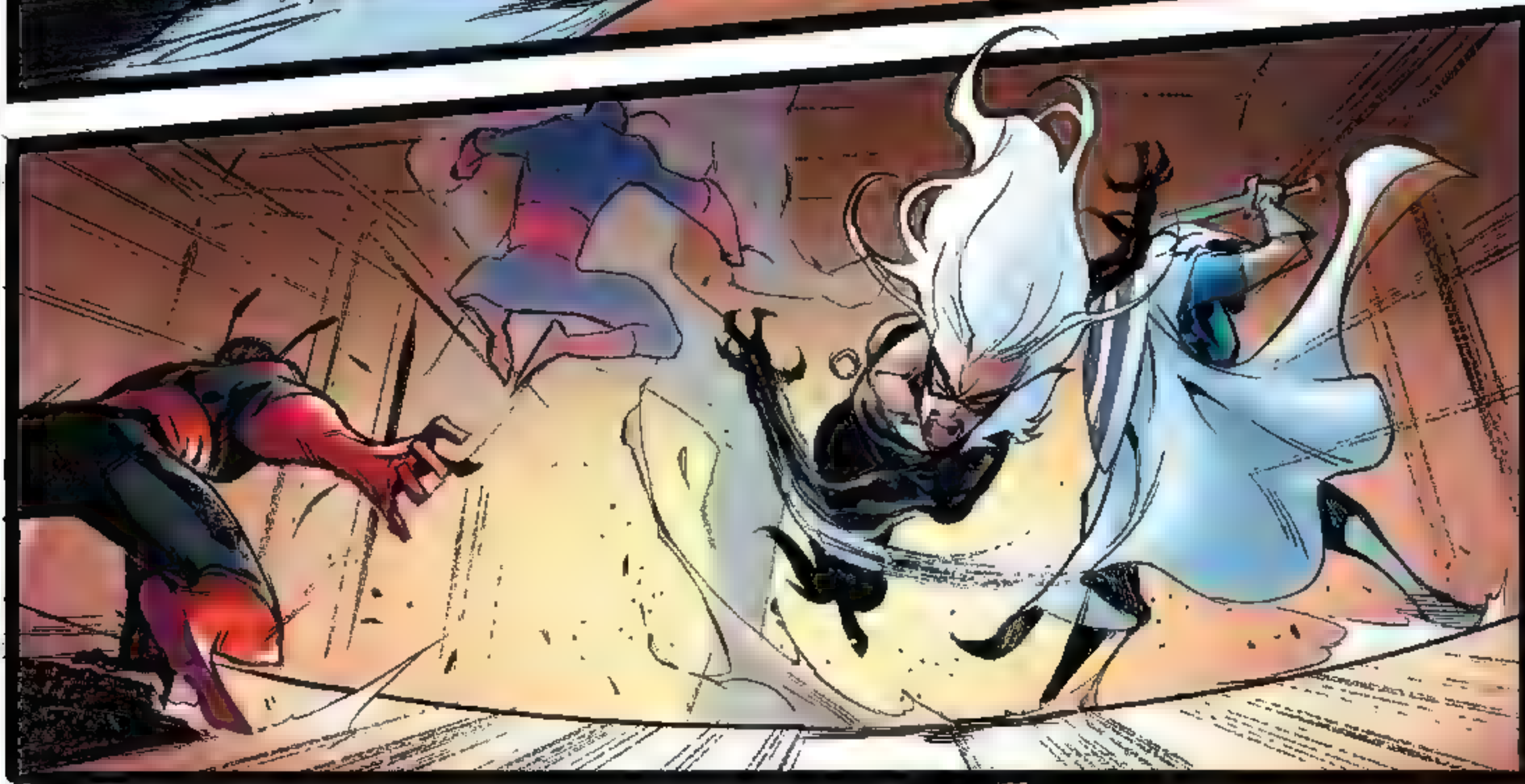
YEAH,
WELL DON'T
WORRY--

I DO.

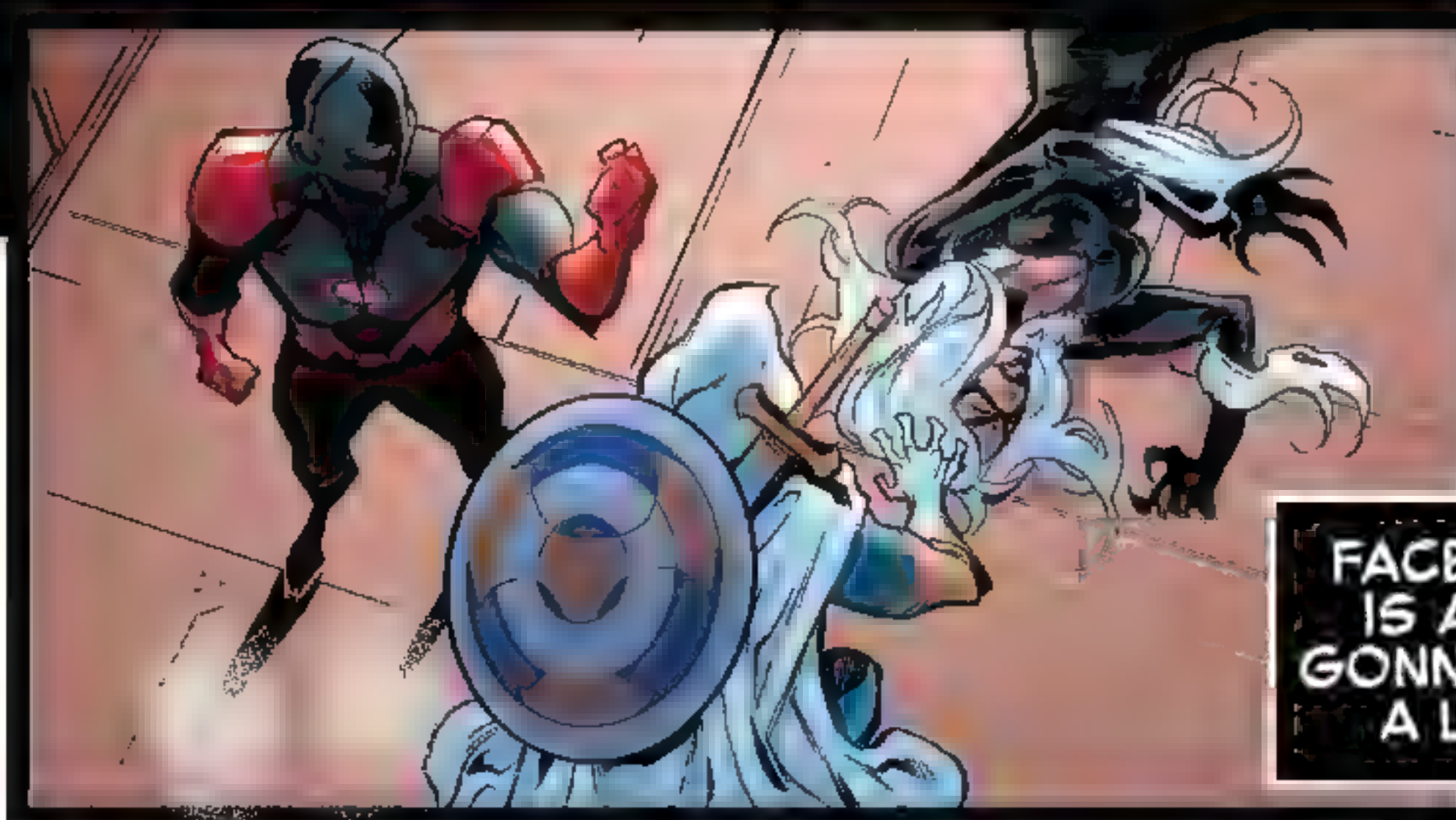
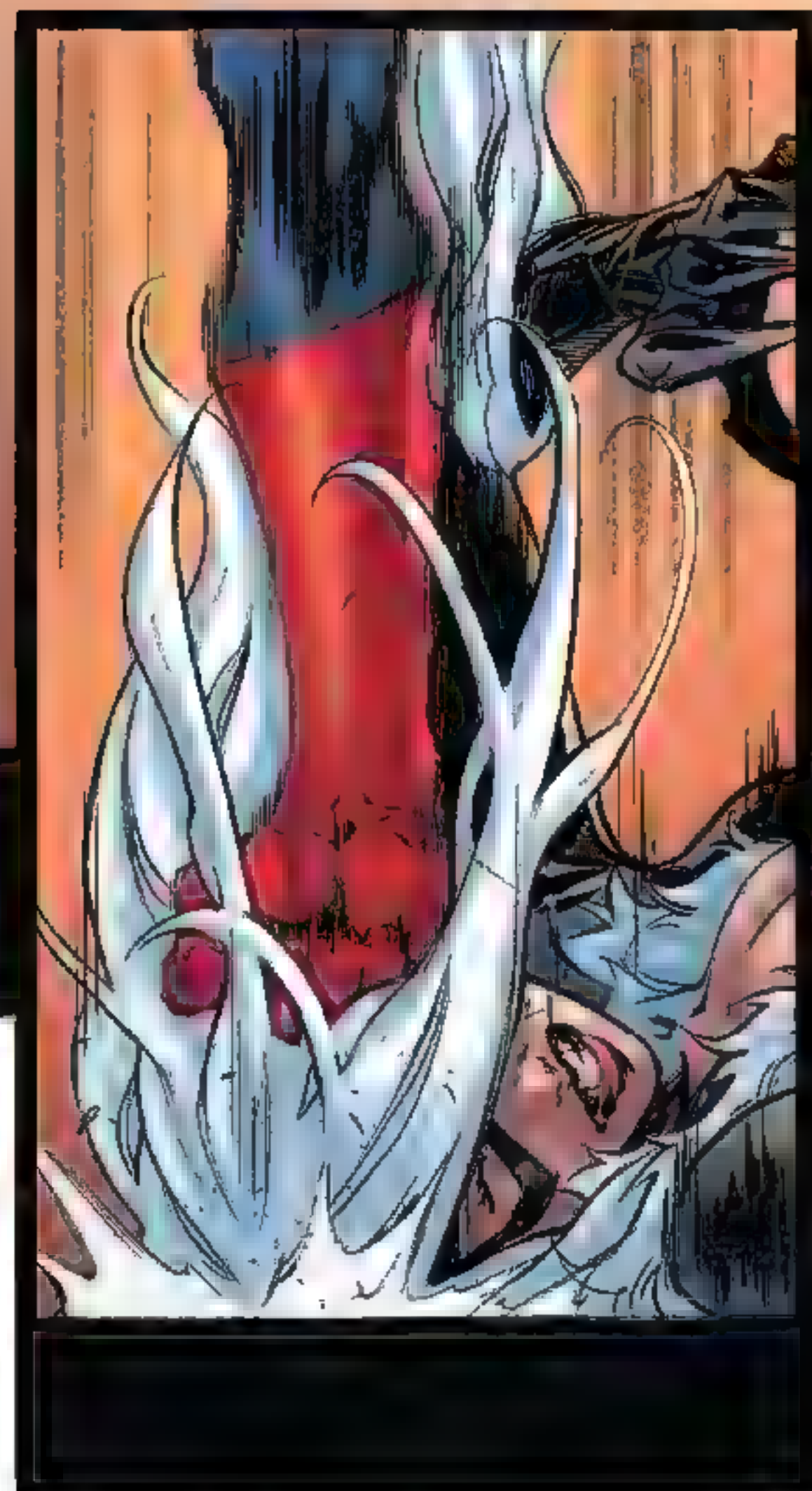
BIG
TALK--



--BUT FACT IS, I'D
HAVE A HARD TIME
WITH ONE OF
THESE GUYS.



PUT THEM BOTH
TOGETHER, I'M
OUTNUMBERED AND
OUTGUNNED.



FACE IT, CAT, THIS
IS A DAY YOU'RE
GONNA REGRET FOR
A LONG TIME--



--NOT
THAT THAT'S
A FIRST.

FELICIA--
COME BACK--I'M
SORRY! IT WAS
A JOKE--

HILARIOUS.
YOU KNOW I
HATE YOUR
JOKES!

LOOK--

IT'S A
SPIDER-TRACER.
THE FIRST SPIDER-
TRACER I EVER USED
ON YOU, ACTUALLY.
BUT I MODIFIED
IT.

NOW IT
CAN TRACK **ME**
DOWN. SO IF YOU
GET IN TROUBLE,
YOU JUST PRESS THE
TOP AND IT'LL COME
FIND ME, SENDING
BACK YOUR
COORDINATES--

--YOU CAN
EVEN **RECORD**
MESSAGES
ON IT.

HOW
ROMANTIC.
AND YOU PUT IT
IN THAT BOX
BECAUSE--

I DIDN'T
HAVE TIME TO
WRAP IT! AND YOU
HAVE ALL THESE
EMPTY JEWELRY
BOXES LYING AROUND--
WHICH I **TRY** NOT
TO ASK ABOUT--

WAIT, YOU DIDN'T
REALLY THINK
I WAS--

FORGET
IT.

LIKE YOU'D
BE UP FOR THAT?
THIS FROM THE LADY
WHO, UP UNTIL A WHILE
AGO, WOULDN'T EVEN
LET ME TAKE OFF MY
MASK WHEN WE--

SLAM!

I SAID
FORGET
IT!

AND BOY,
DID I--



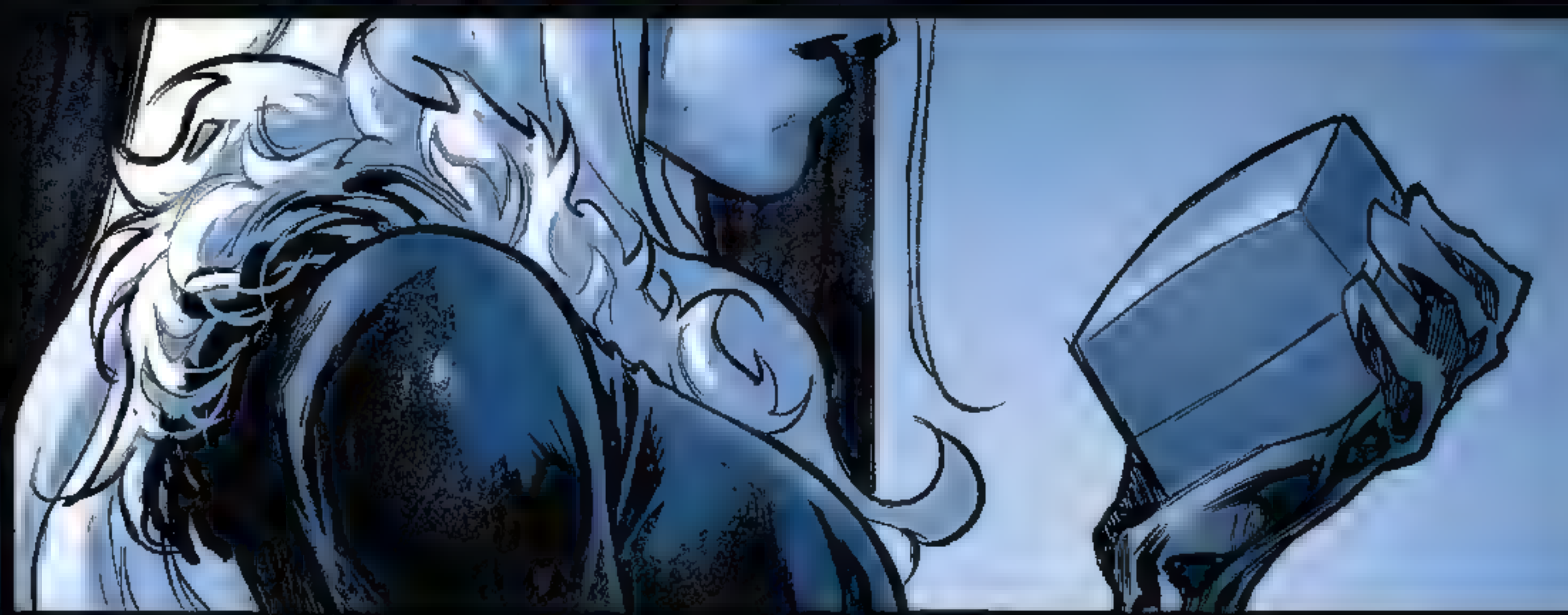
--UNTIL,
AGAIN, VERY
RECENTLY.



WHEN THIS PARTICULAR
PAINFUL MEMORY KEPT
ME UP ALL NIGHT
LAST NIGHT LOOKING
FOR SOMETHING.



SOMETHING
I'D LOST. NO
MORE THAN
THAT.



SOMETHING I
DIDN'T EVEN
KNOW I HAD.



MAYBE MY
LUCK'S NOT
ALL BAD
AFTER ALL.



FLASH
GRENADE!
DANG IT--
THAT WAY--

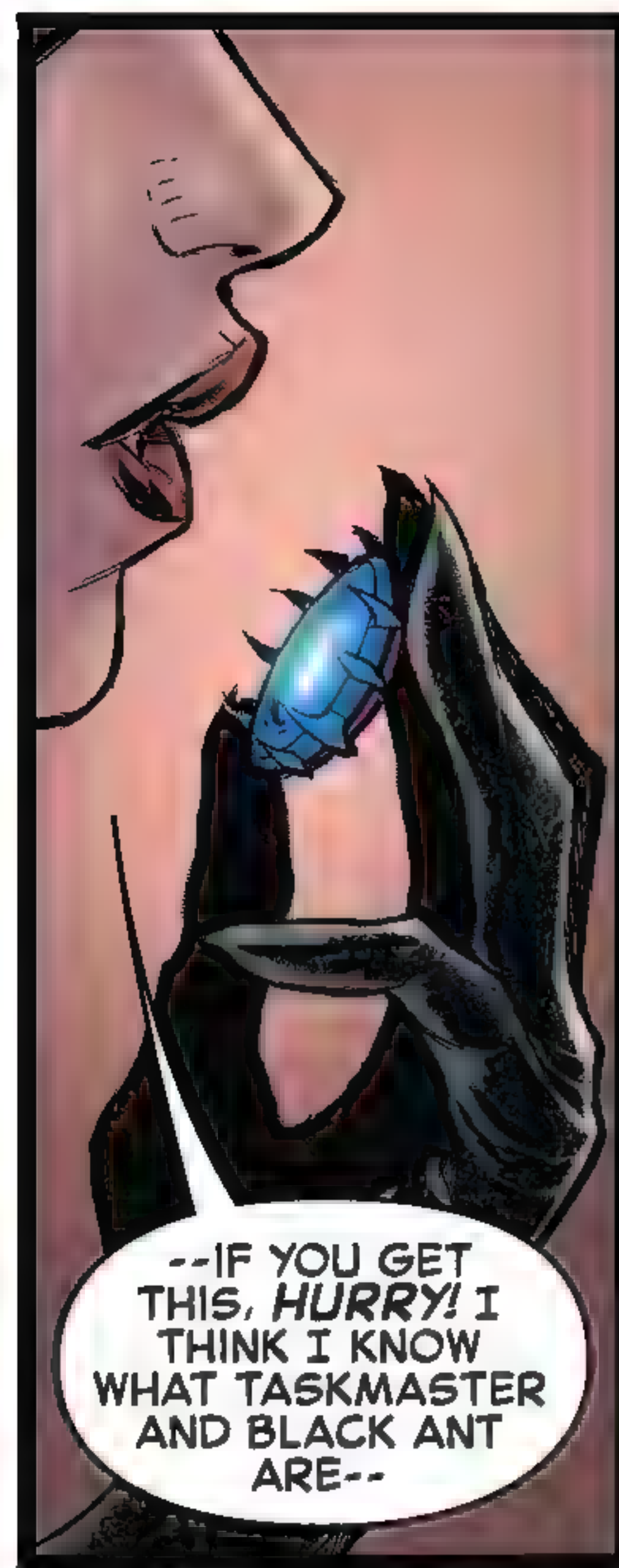


GOD, I HOPE
THIS THING
STILL WORKS.



SPIDER--IT'S
BLACK CAT--I
WALKED RIGHT INTO
A TRAP, COULD USE
AN ASSIST--

NOT JUST
ME, EITHER.
THERE'S SOME KID
NAMED BILLY HERE,
THE LIZARD'S
SON--

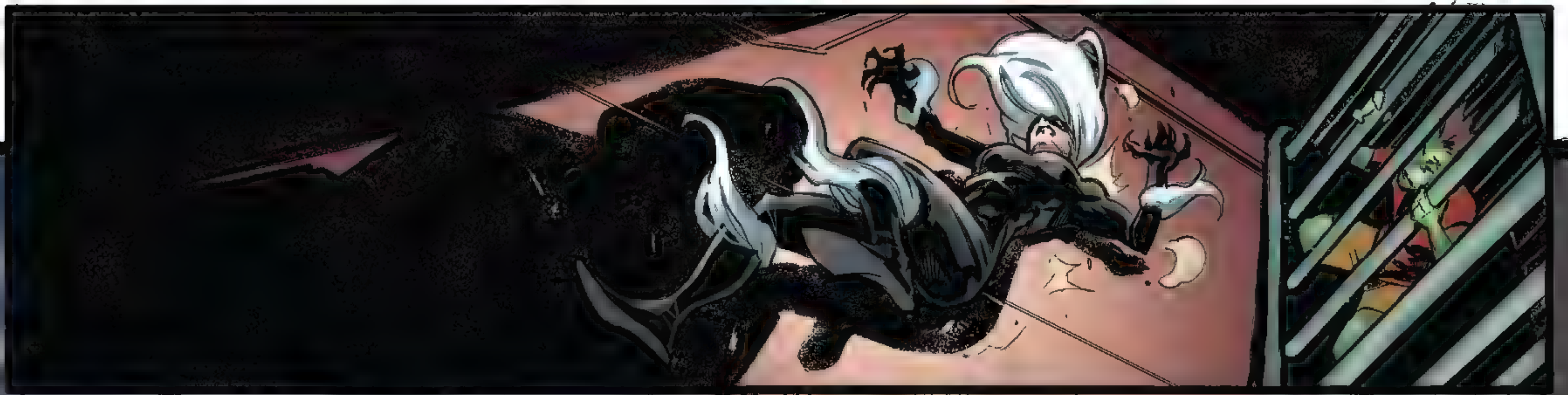
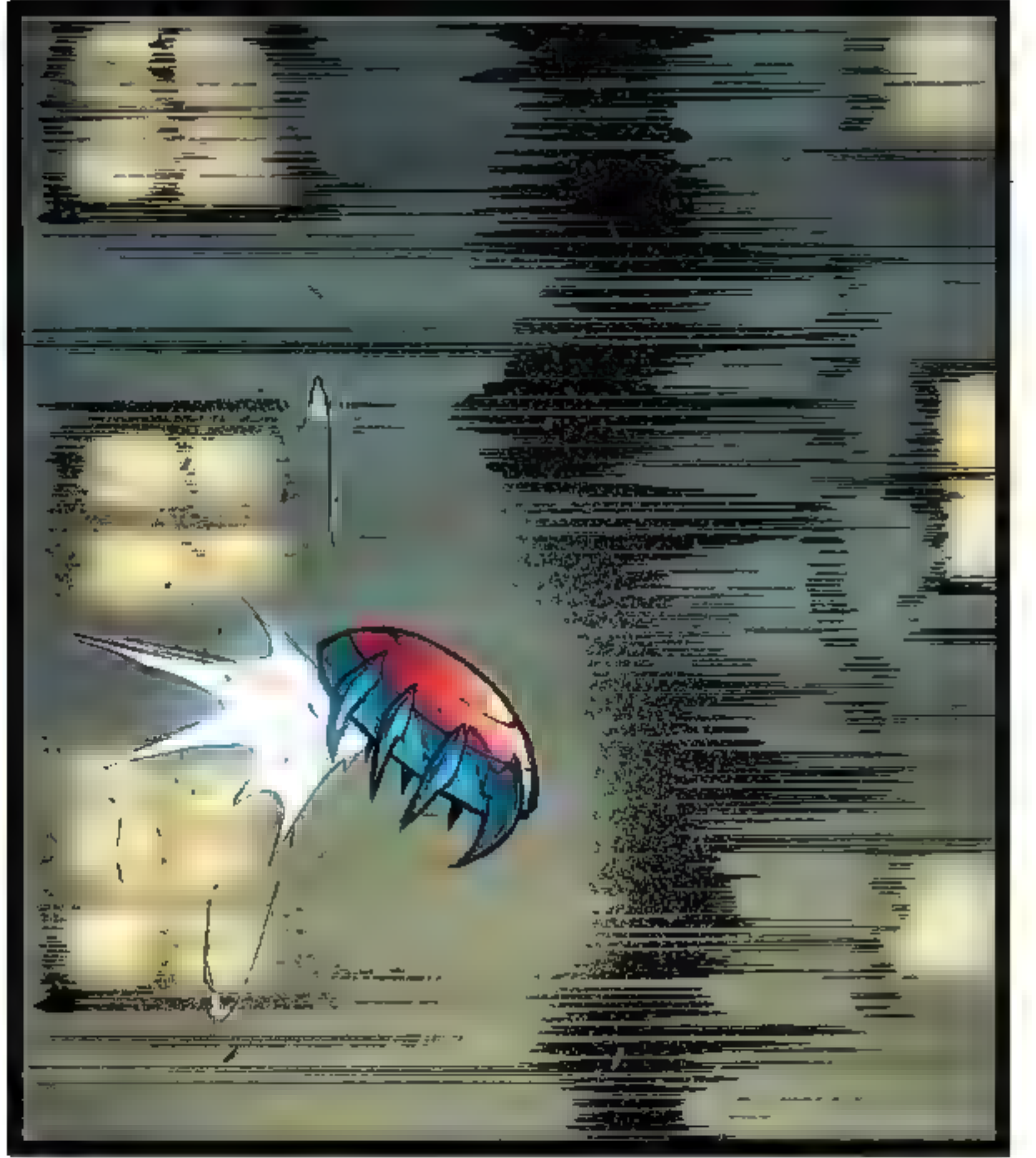
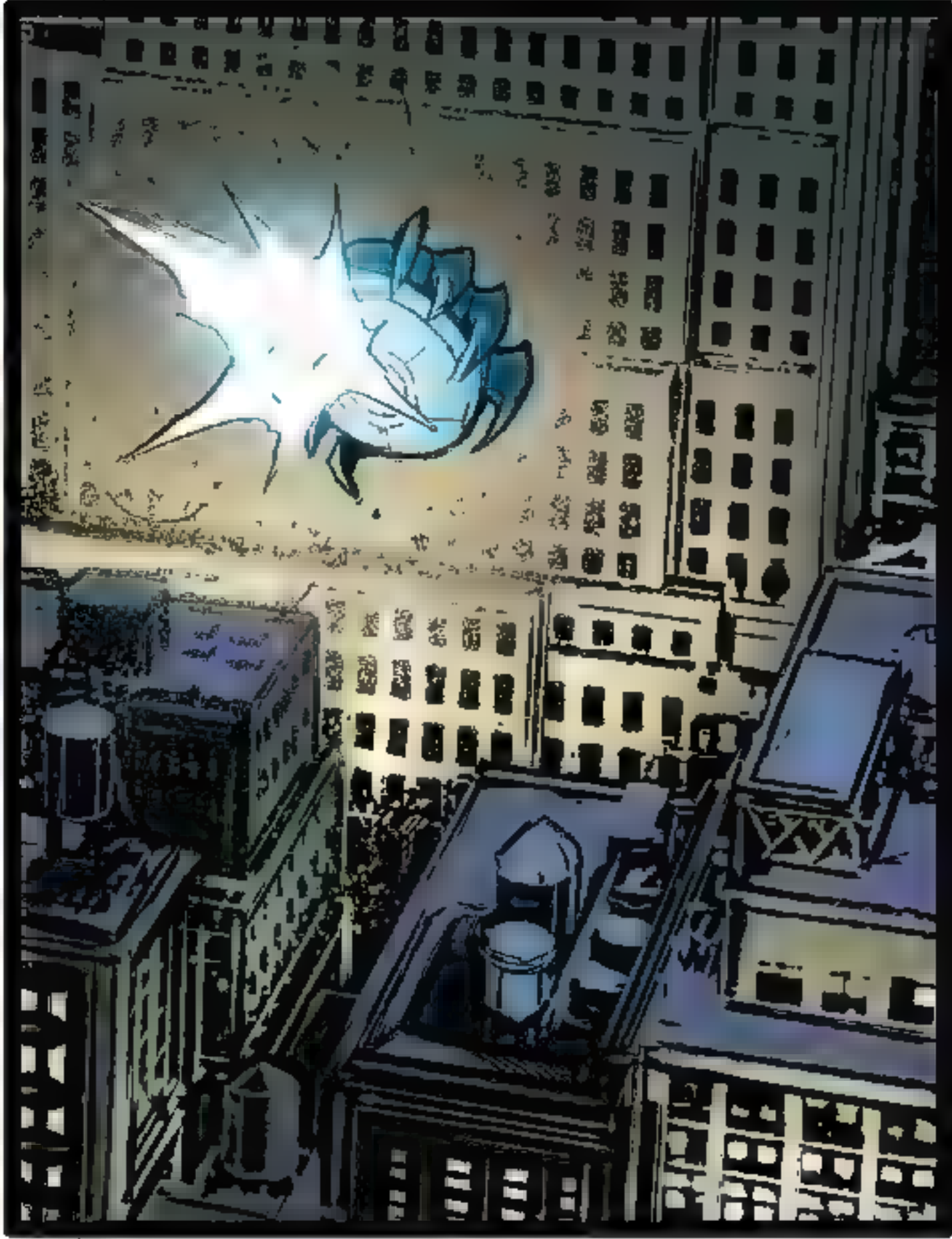
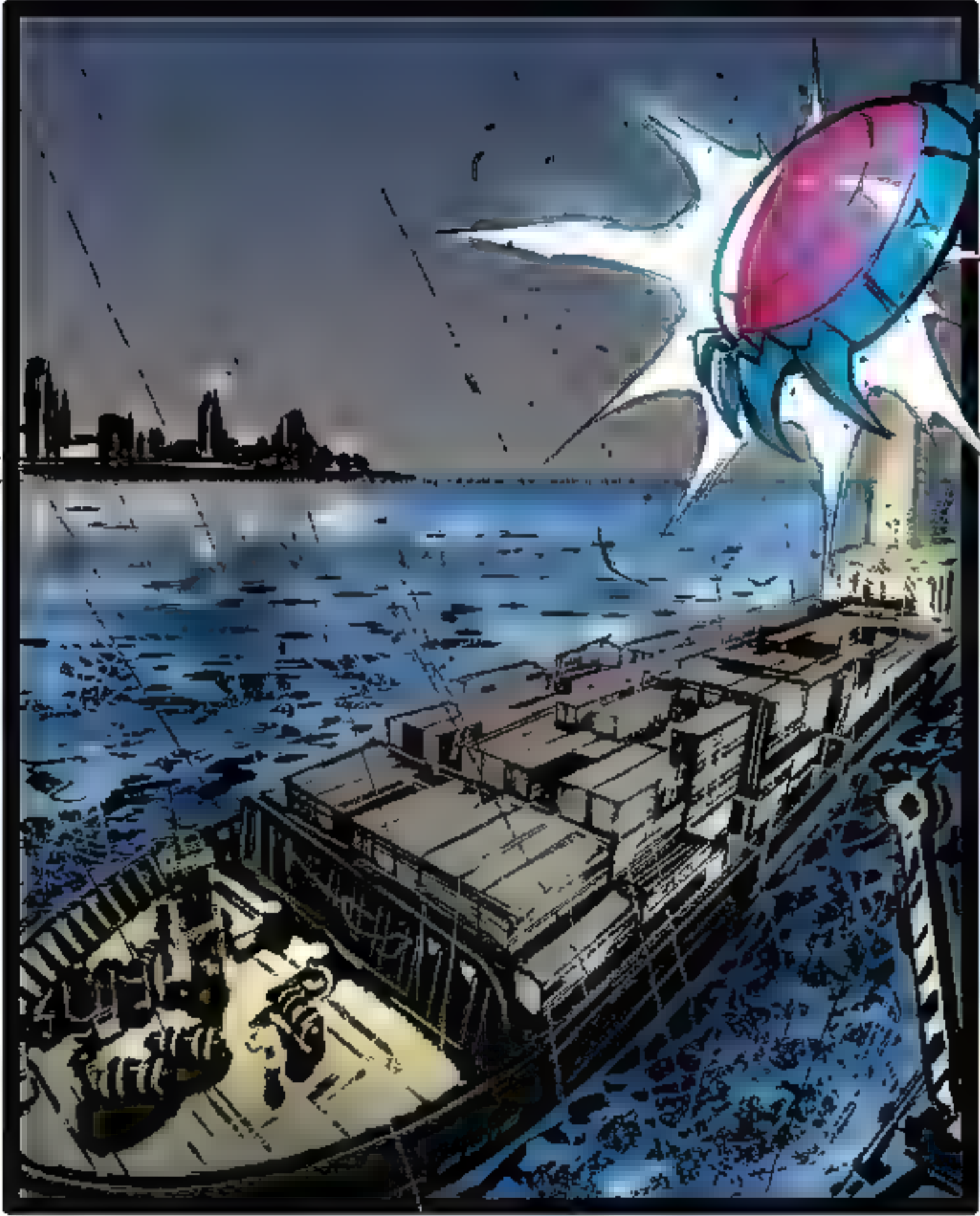


--IF YOU GET
THIS, HURRY! I
THINK I KNOW
WHAT TASKMASTER
AND BLACK ANT
ARE--



UHNN!









17



I am
Kraven--



--I am a
man of many
names.



The
beast.



The
HUNTER.



Kravinov.



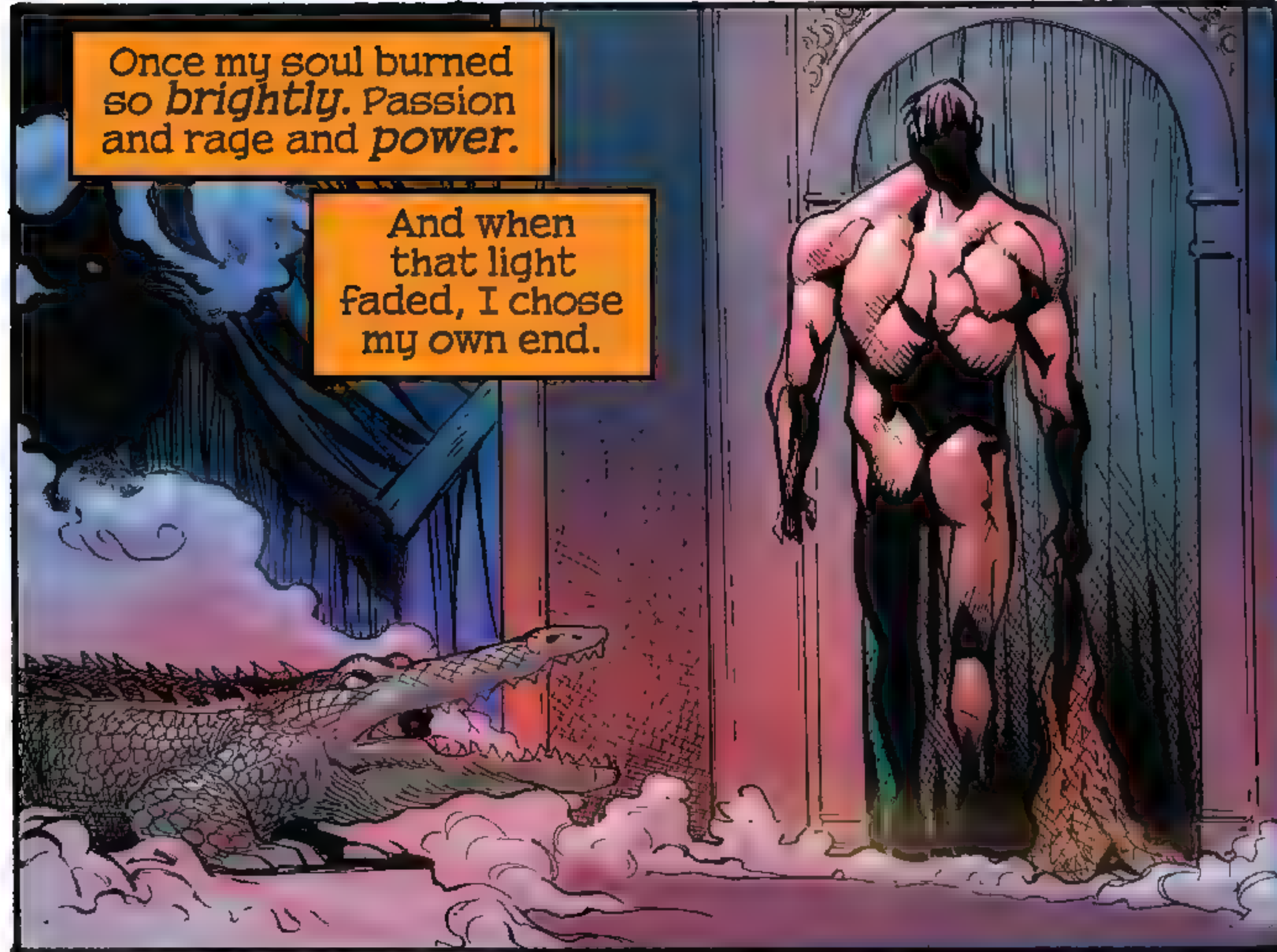
I am none
of these
now.



Now I
am just--



--the
ghost.



Once my soul burned
so *brightly*. Passion
and rage and *power*.

And when
that light
faded, I chose
my own end.



It was
glorious.



Now--everything is
compromised. I have been
returned to a world I do
not belong in, cursed to
roam endlessly through
its decaying paths.



I hate everything
I see. There is no
dignity in this
existence. No dignity
anywhere. The old
ways have been lost.

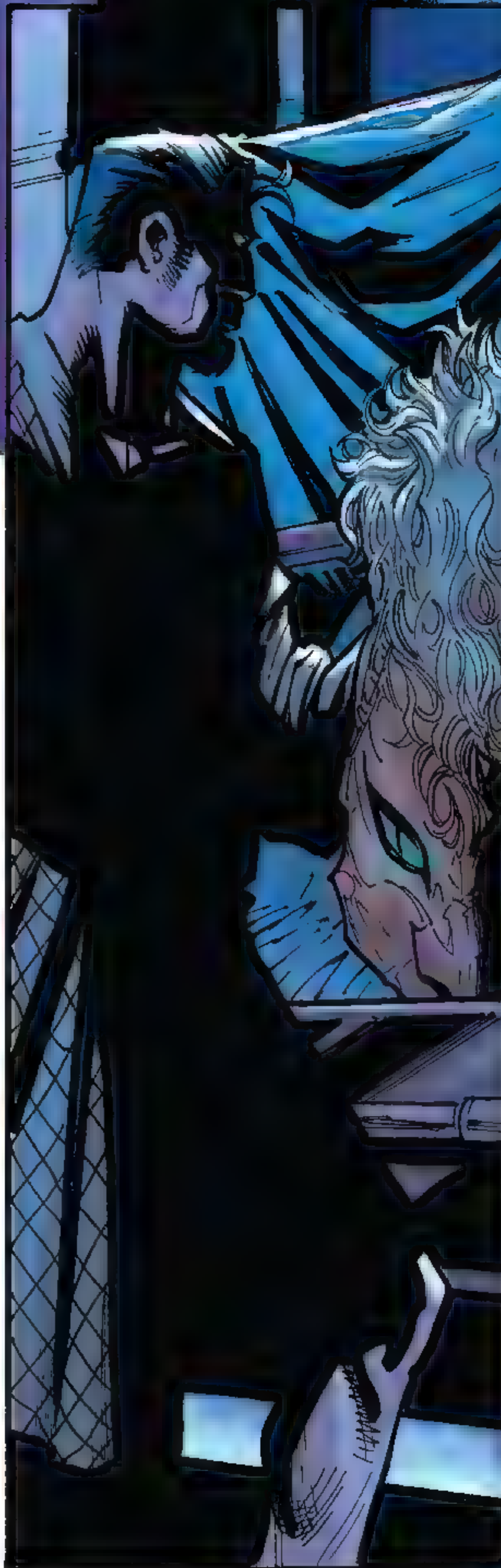
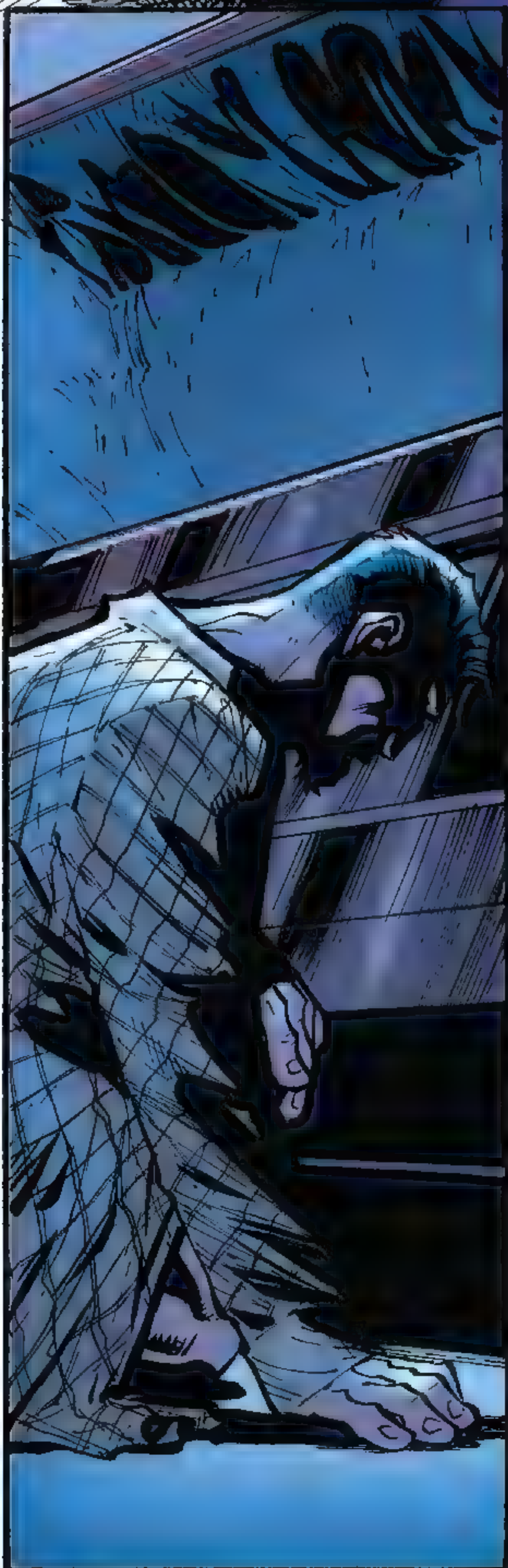
I *yearn*
for death.

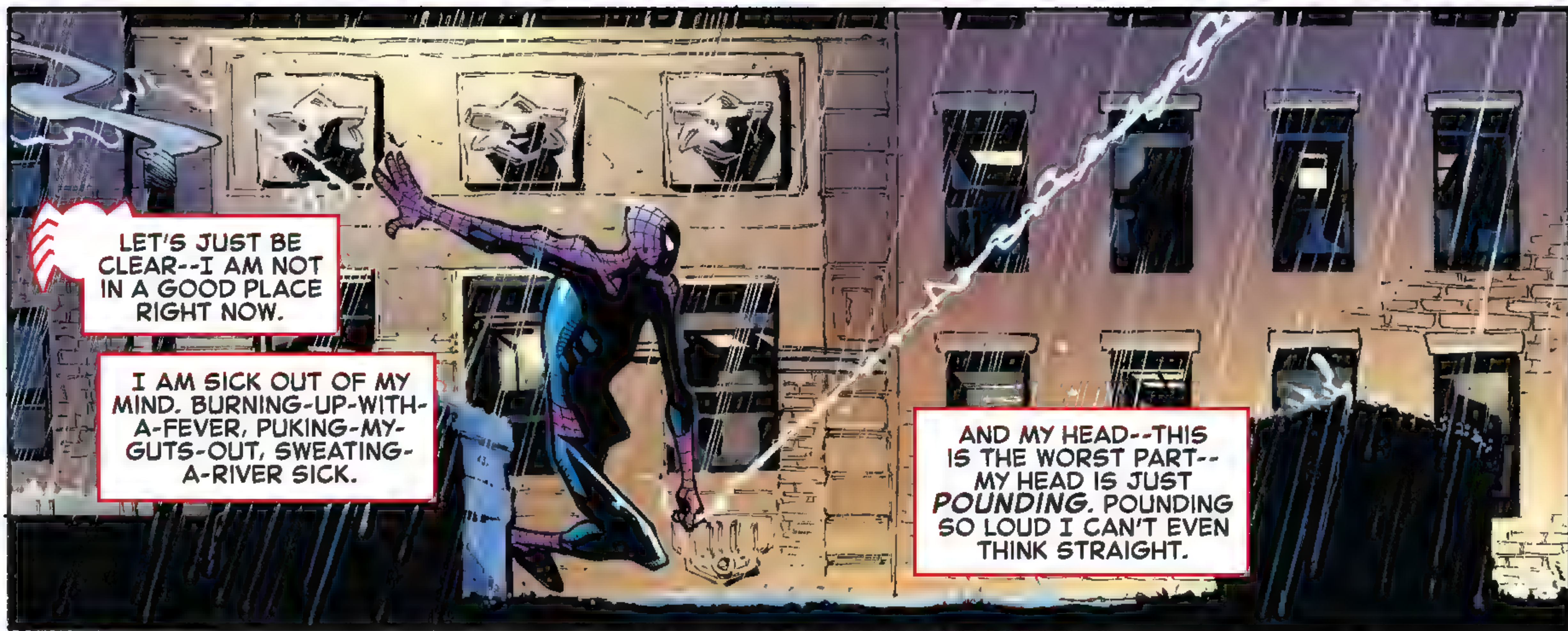


A death that this time *cannot* be undone.



Only the *Spider* can kill me, the curse said. So I will find a way. There will be peace.

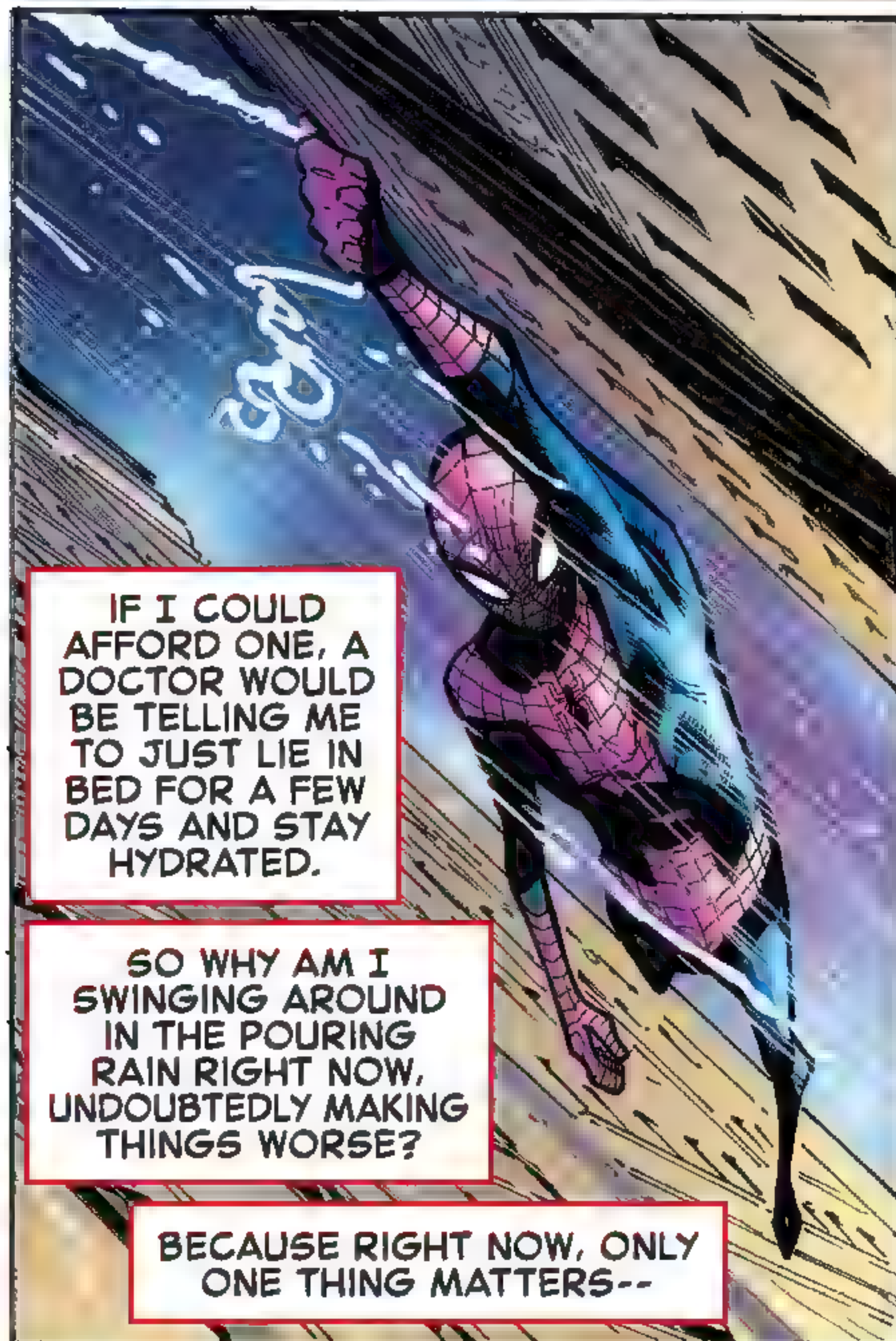




LET'S JUST BE CLEAR--I AM NOT IN A GOOD PLACE RIGHT NOW.

I AM SICK OUT OF MY MIND. BURNING-UP-WITH-A-FEVER, PUKING-MY-GUTS-OUT, SWEATING-A-RIVER SICK.

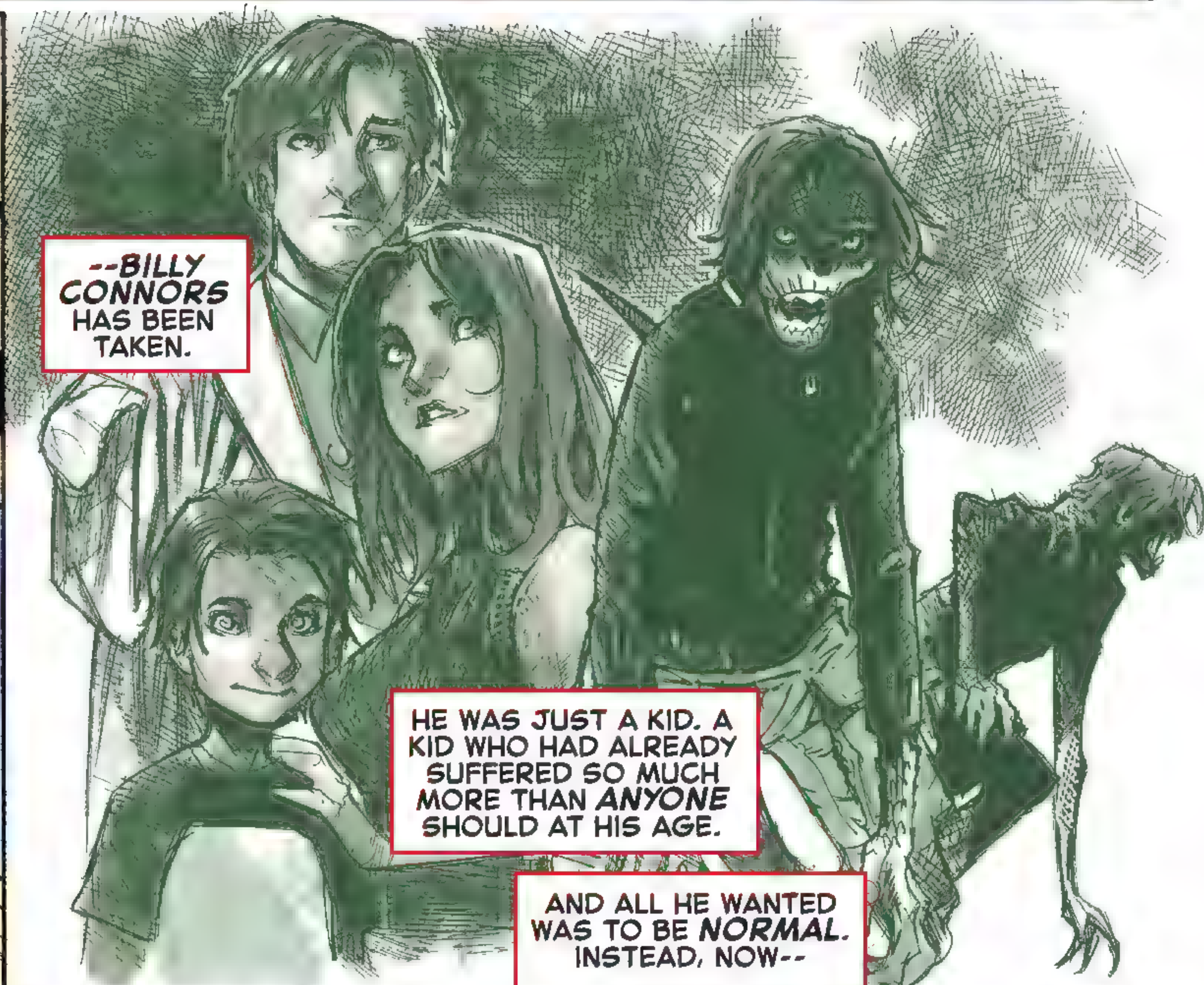
AND MY HEAD--THIS IS THE WORST PART--MY HEAD IS JUST **POUNDING**. POUNDING SO LOUD I CAN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT.



IF I COULD AFFORD ONE, A DOCTOR WOULD BE TELLING ME TO JUST LIE IN BED FOR A FEW DAYS AND STAY HYDRATED.

SO WHY AM I SWINGING AROUND IN THE POURING RAIN RIGHT NOW, UNDOUBTEDLY MAKING THINGS WORSE?

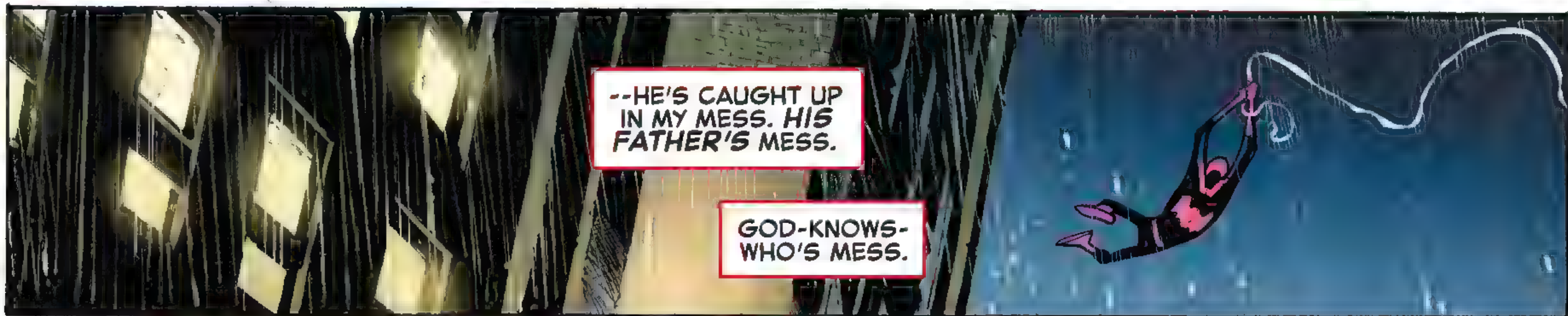
BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, ONLY ONE THING MATTERS--



--**BILLY CONNORS** HAS BEEN TAKEN.

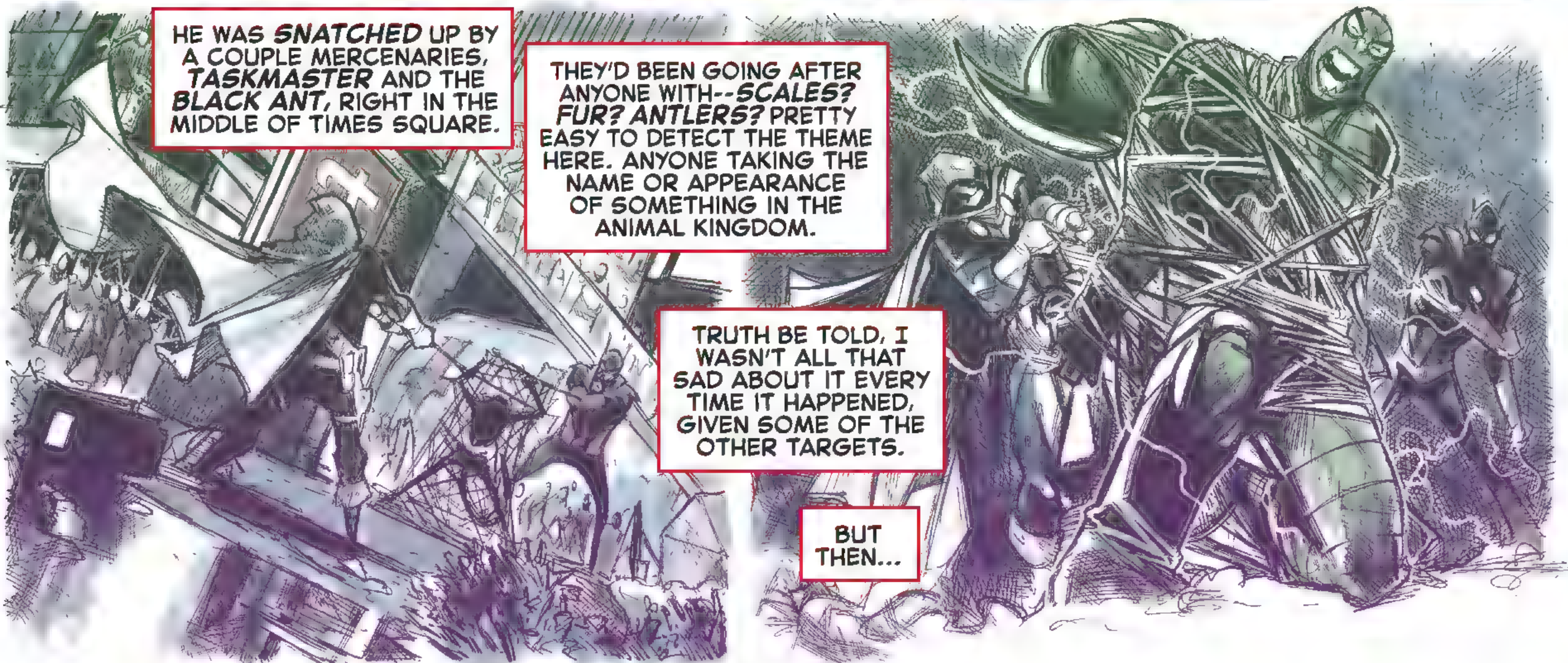
HE WAS JUST A KID. A KID WHO HAD ALREADY SUFFERED SO MUCH MORE THAN **ANYONE** SHOULD AT HIS AGE.

AND ALL HE WANTED WAS TO BE **NORMAL**. INSTEAD, NOW--



--HE'S CAUGHT UP IN MY MESS. **HIS FATHER'S MESS**.

GOD-KNOWS-WHO'S MESS.



HE WAS **SNATCHED** UP BY A COUPLE MERCENARIES, **TASKMASTER** AND THE **BLACK ANT**, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF TIMES SQUARE.

THEY'D BEEN GOING AFTER ANYONE WITH--**SCALES?** **FUR?** **ANTLERS?** PRETTY EASY TO DETECT THE THEME HERE. ANYONE TAKING THE NAME OR APPEARANCE OF SOMETHING IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.

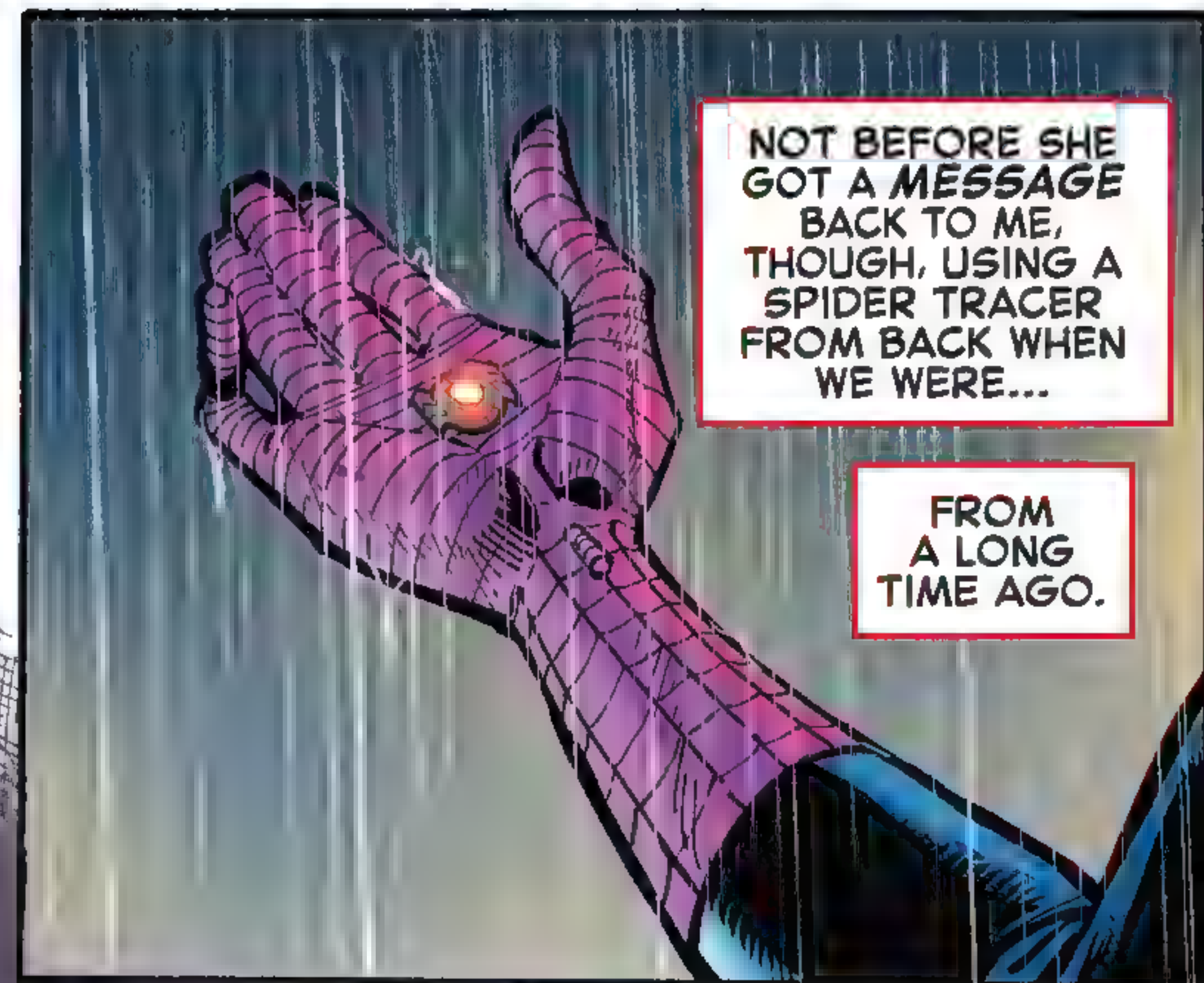
TRUTH BE TOLD, I WASN'T ALL THAT SAD ABOUT IT EVERY TIME IT HAPPENED, GIVEN SOME OF THE OTHER TARGETS.

BUT THEN...



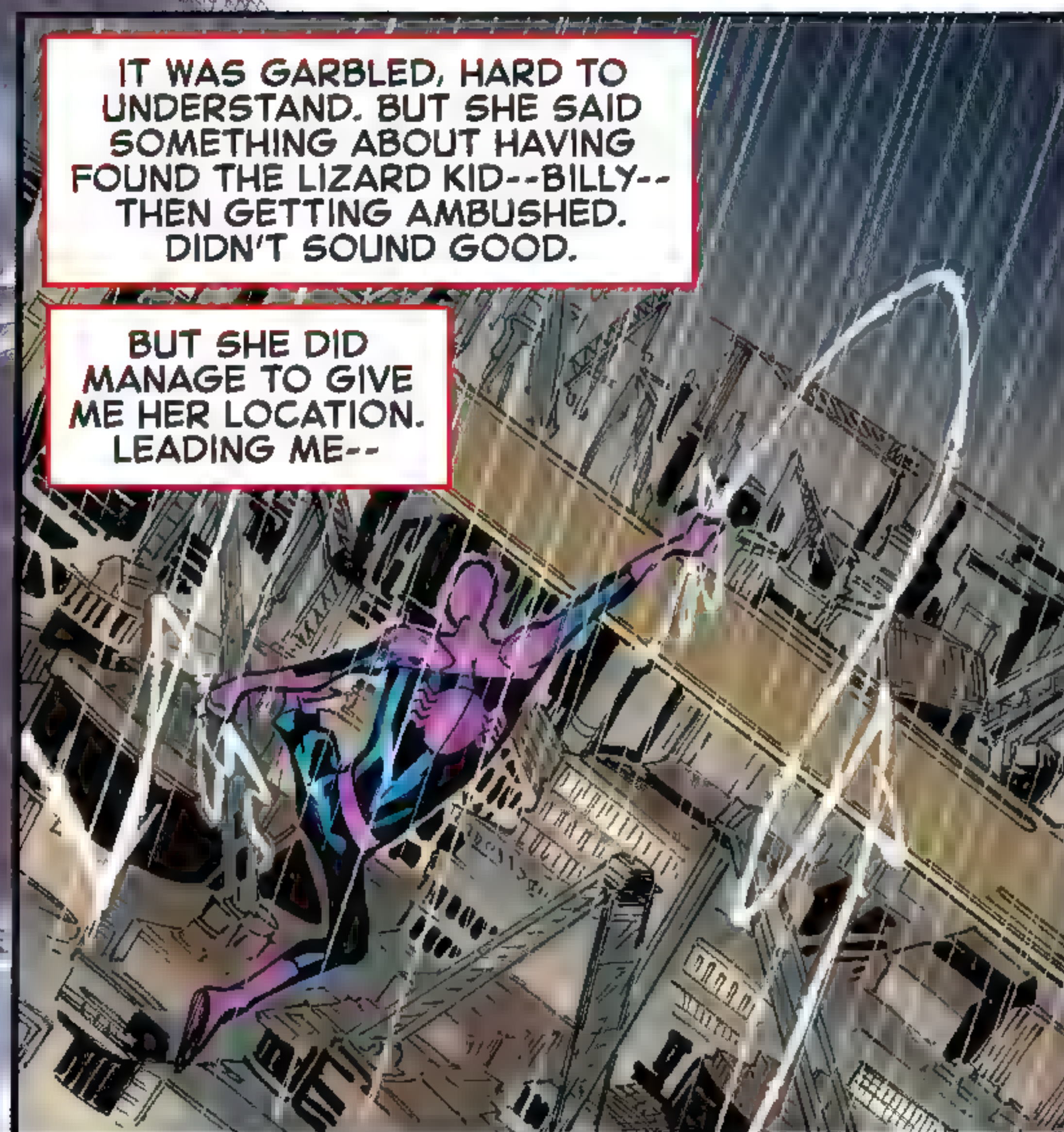
...THE
BLACK
CAT.

THEY
GOT HER,
TOO.



NOT BEFORE SHE
GOT A MESSAGE
BACK TO ME,
THOUGH, USING A
SPIDER TRACER
FROM BACK WHEN
WE WERE...

FROM
A LONG
TIME AGO.



IT WAS GARBLED, HARD TO
UNDERSTAND. BUT SHE SAID
SOMETHING ABOUT HAVING
FOUND THE LIZARD KID--BILLY--
THEN GETTING AMBUSHED.
DIDN'T SOUND GOOD.

BUT SHE DID
MANAGE TO GIVE
ME HER LOCATION.
LEADING ME--



--HERE.

OH,
FELICIA...



...WHAT DID WE
GET OURSELVES
INTO THIS TIME?

I'VE NEVER
WANTED KIDS.

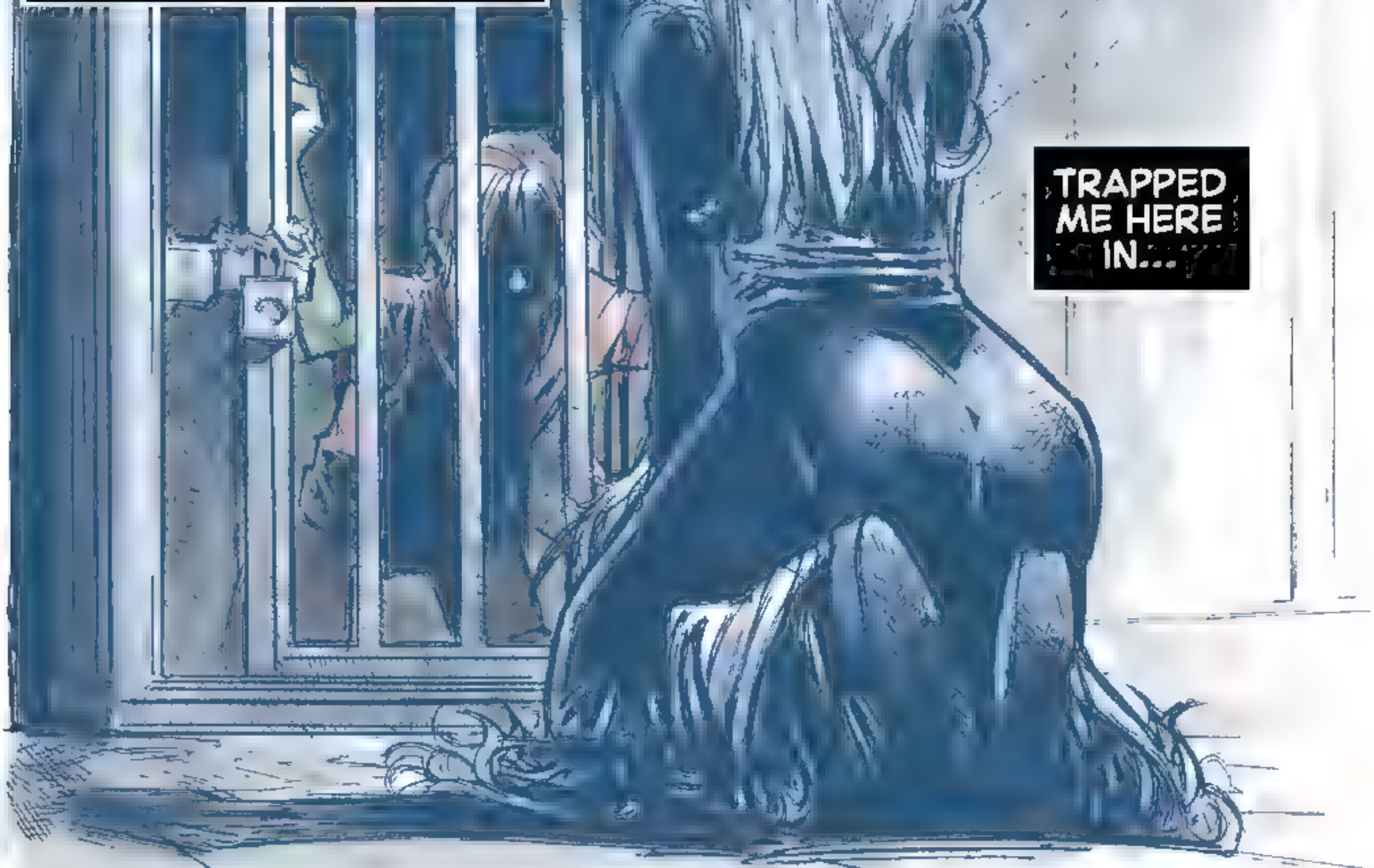
I DIDN'T EVEN LIKE **BABYSITTING** WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER--AT LEAST NOT UNTIL I REALIZED HOW MANY OF THE PARENTS LEFT THEIR JEWELRY BOXES UNLOCKED WHILE THEY GO OUT.

POINT IS, WHATEVER THAT INSTINCT IS, I NEVER HAD IT. IT'S JUST NOT IN MY DNA.

SO WHY-- PLEASE GOD, TELL ME WHY--



--DID I STOP IN THE MIDDLE OF AN OTHERWISE SUCCESSFUL JOB TO TRY SAVING SOME SNIVELING **SNAKE KID**? THAT ONE MOMENT OF WEAKNESS TRAPPED ME...



TRAPPED ME HERE IN...

...THE **PLAZA HOTEL**?

OKAY. THERE ARE **WORSE PRISONS**. MAYBE THE PLAY HERE IS JUST TO DRAW A BATH, ORDER SOME ROOM SERVICE AND--

≡SNIFF≡

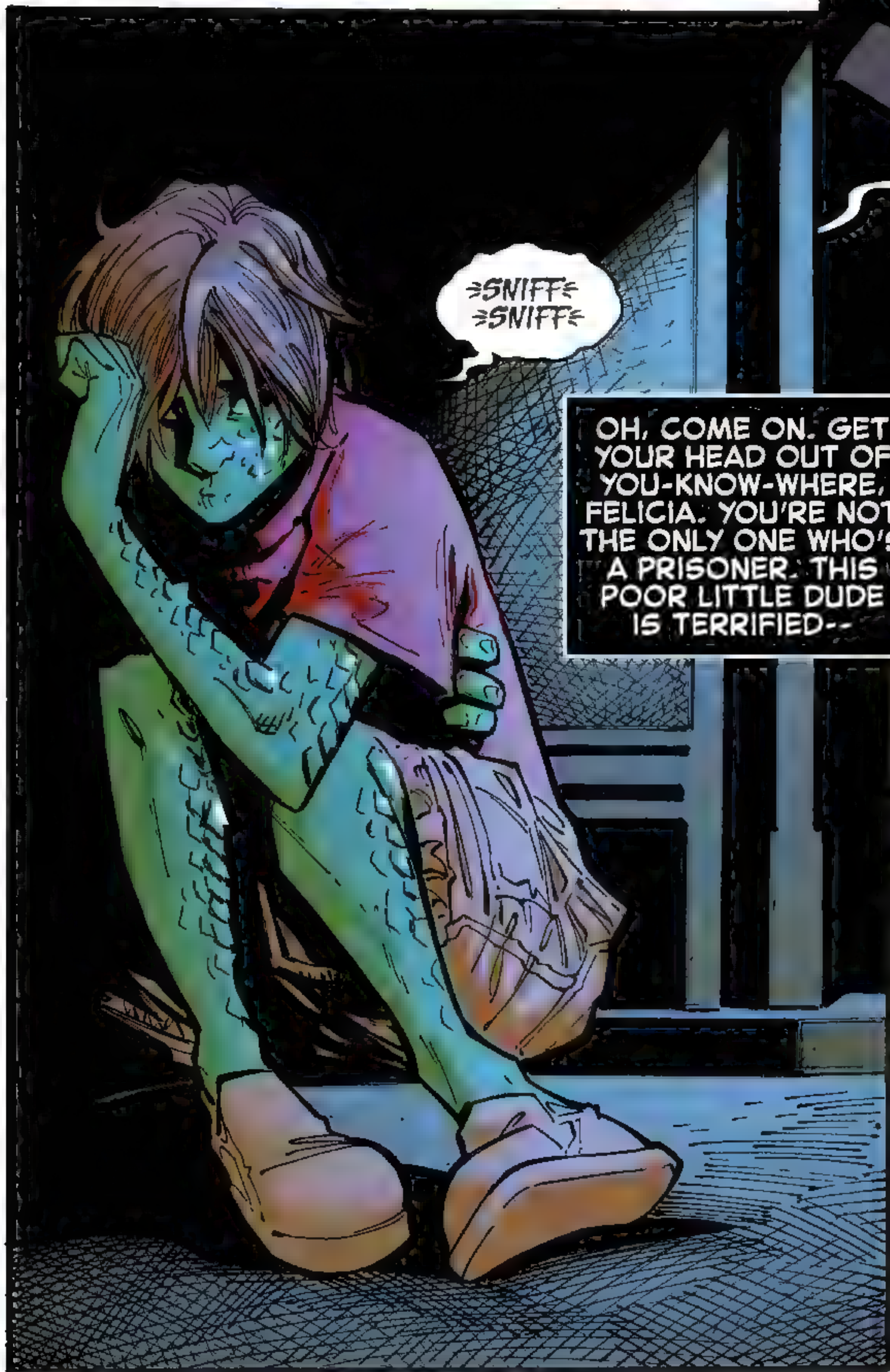


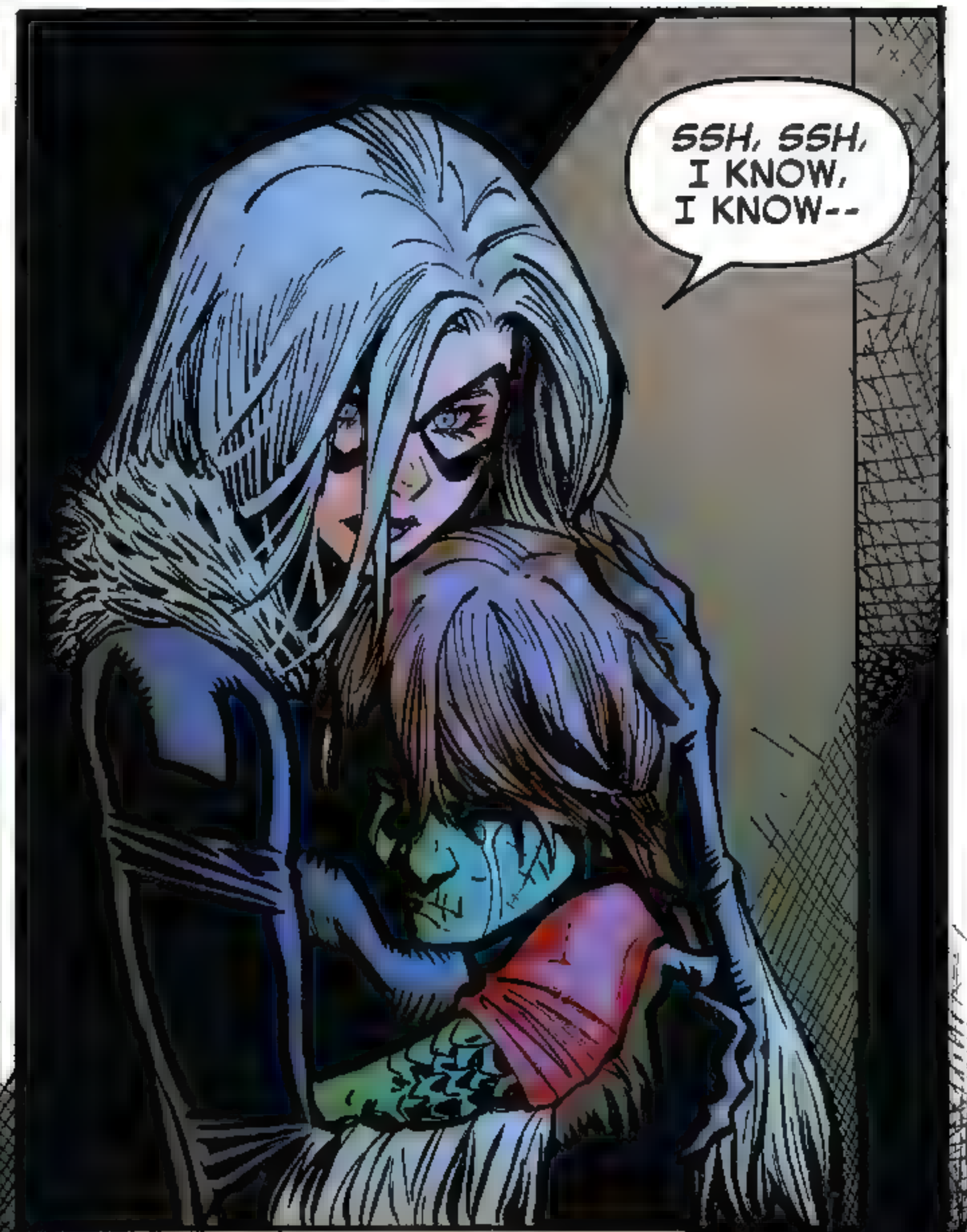
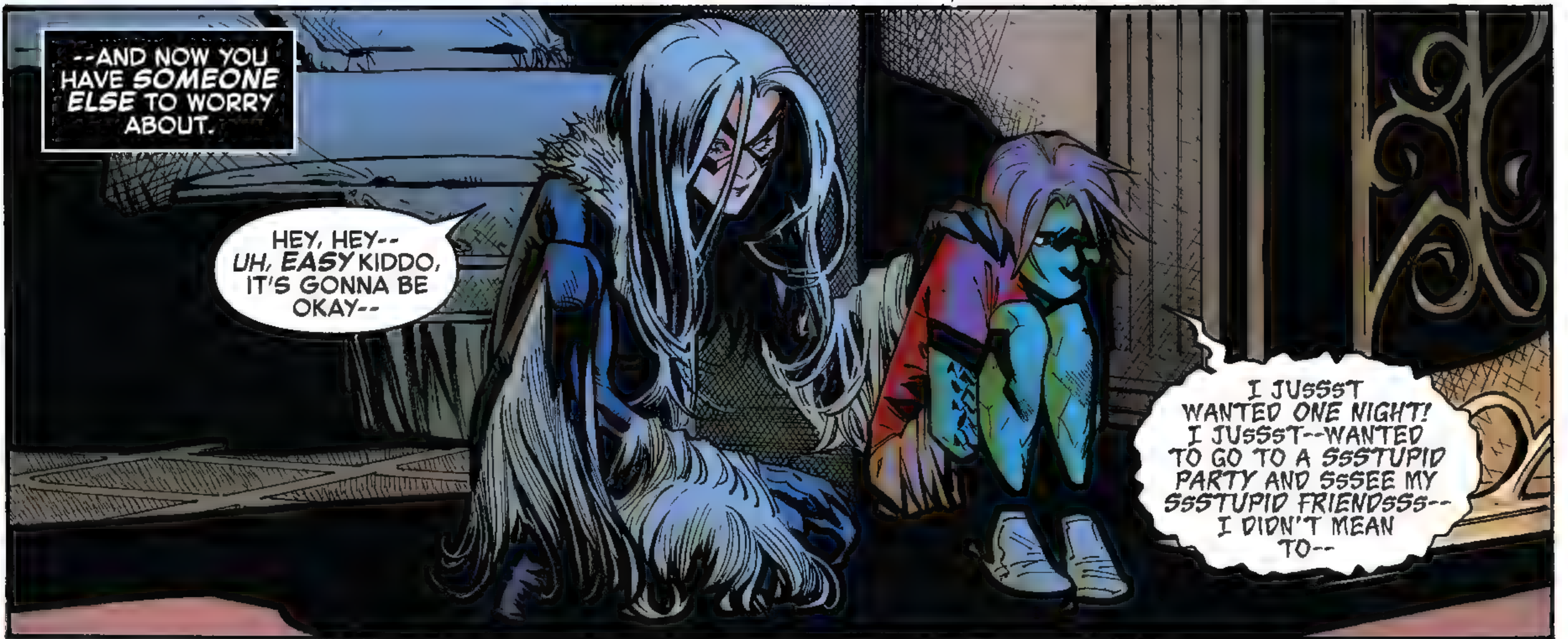
≡SNIFF≡
≡SNIFF≡

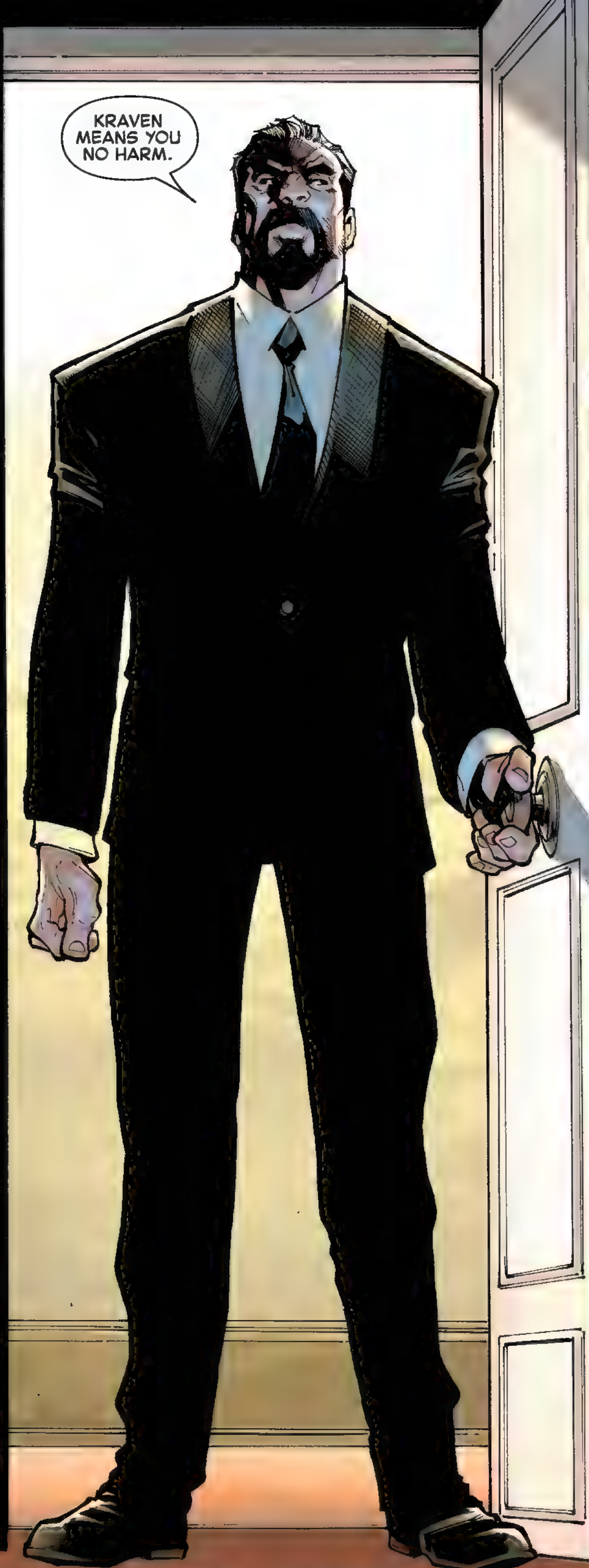
OH, COME ON. GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOU-KNOW-WHERE, FELICIA. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S A PRISONER. THIS POOR LITTLE DUDE IS TERRIFIED--

--AND YOU'RE NOT HERE BECAUSE OF HIM. YOU GOT GREEDY. GOT SLOPPY. GOT DOUBLE-CROSSED.

THE WHOLE JOB WAS A SETUP TO GET YOU HERE, AND YOU FELL FOR IT. YOU ONLY HAVE **YOURSELF** TO BLAME--







KRAVEN
MEANS YOU
NO HARM.



ALL DUE
RESPECT, HUNTER--
BUT BUYING A LINE
LIKE THAT USUALLY
ENDS UP WITH YOU
WEARING MY KIND
AS A COAT.

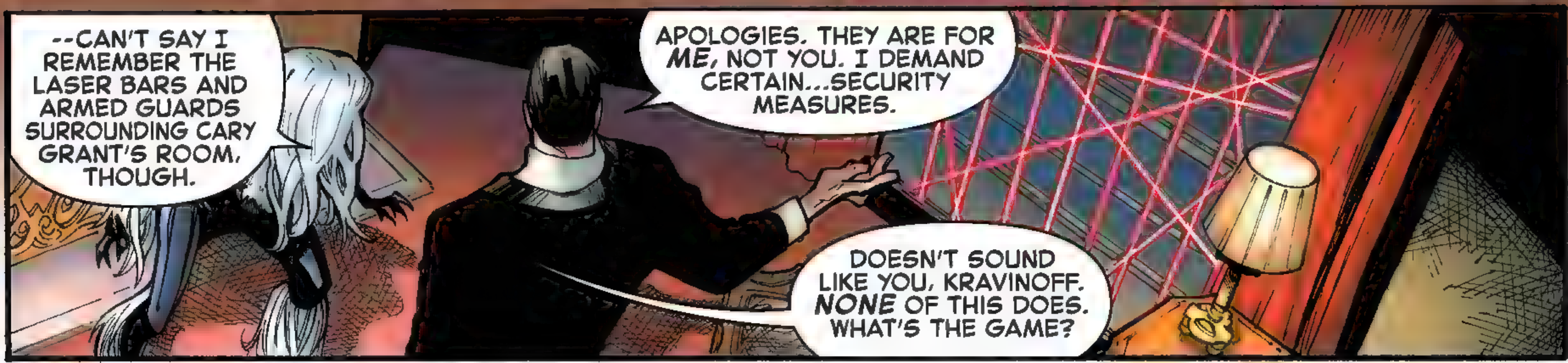
YOU
OFFEND
ME, MS.
HARDY.

THE KID
WOULD ACTUALLY
MAKE FOR SOME
NICE BOOTS, I'LL
ADMIT.



HAVE I NOT
DEMONSTRATED
MY NOBLE
INTENTIONS? ARE THE
ACCOMODATIONS
NOT TO YOUR
LIKING?

YOU
KIDDING? YOU
HAVE NO IDEA HOW
MANY TIMES I'VE
SEEN NORTH BY
NORTHWEST--



--CAN'T SAY I
REMEMBER THE
LASER BARS AND
ARMED GUARDS
SURROUNDING CARY
GRANT'S ROOM,
THOUGH.

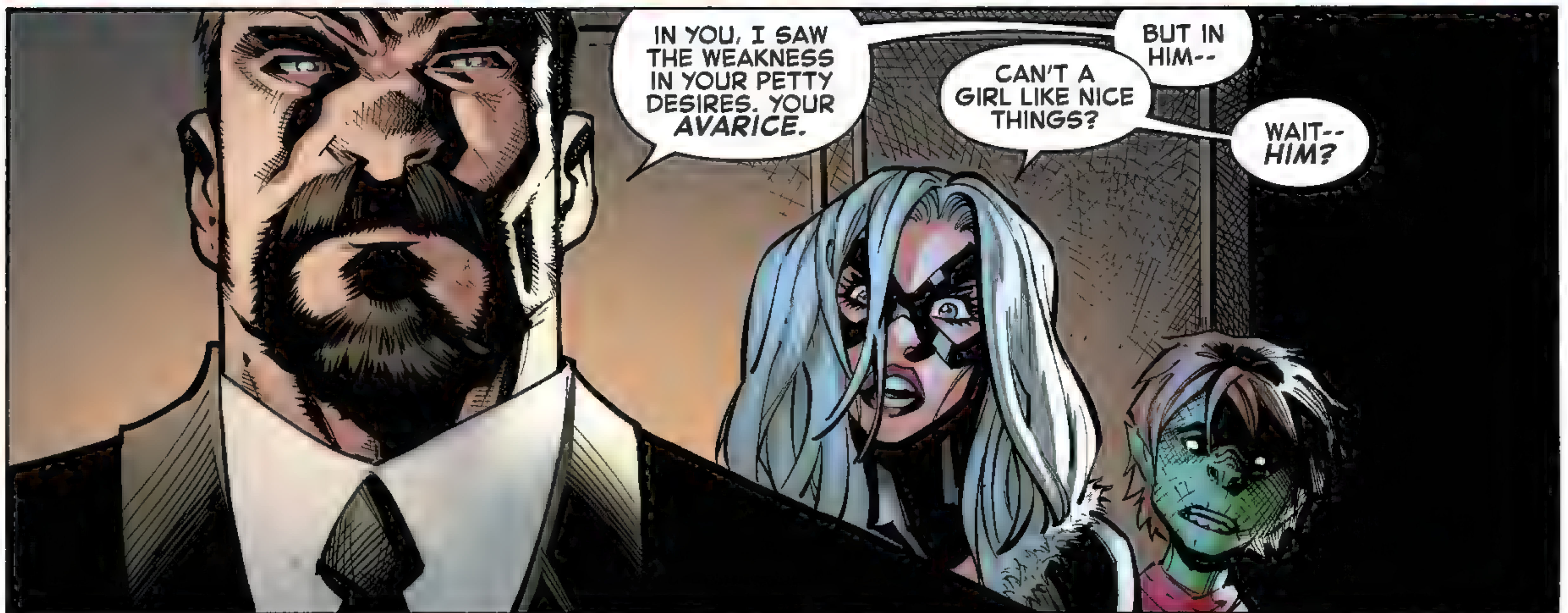
APOLOGIES. THEY ARE FOR
ME, NOT YOU. I DEMAND
CERTAIN...SECURITY
MEASURES.

DOESN'T SOUND
LIKE YOU, KRAVINOFF.
NONE OF THIS DOES.
WHAT'S THE GAME?



~SIGH~
YOU CALLED ME
"HUNTER" BEFORE,
AND I HAVE CARRIED
THAT TITLE ALL
THROUGH MY LIFE
WITH GREAT
PRIDE.

BUT
IT IS ALSO MY
CURSE. I SEE
THE WEAKNESS IN
ALL THINGS. AND
I **DESPISE** THAT
WEAKNESS. SO
I SNUFF IT
OUT.



IN YOU, I SAW
THE WEAKNESS
IN YOUR PETTY
DESIRES. YOUR
AVARICE.

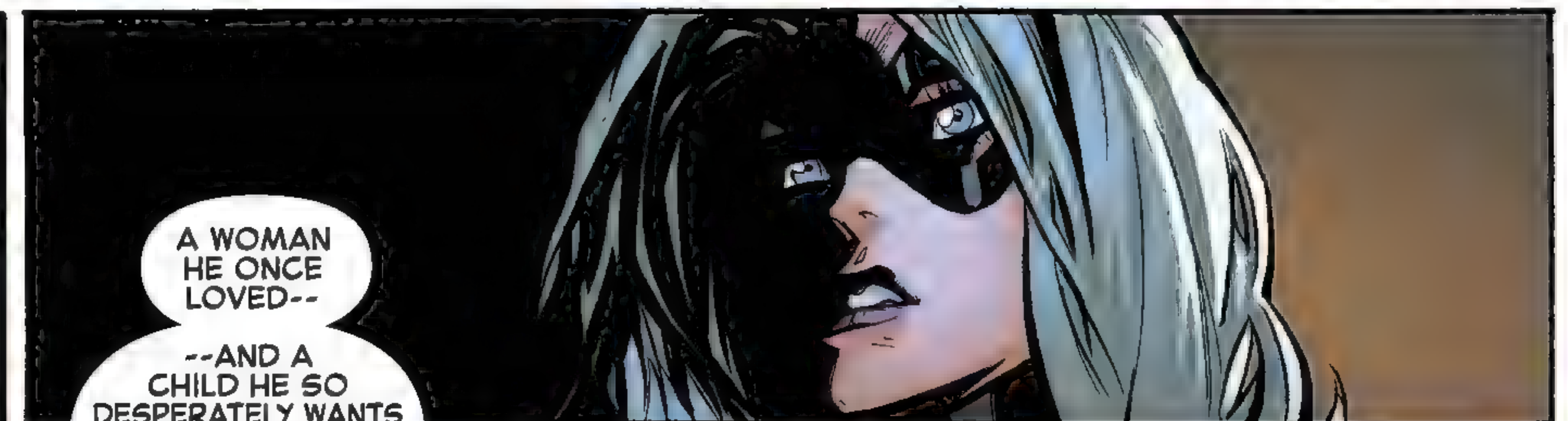
CAN'T A
GIRL LIKE NICE
THINGS?

BUT IN
HIM--

WAIT--
HIM?



IN HIM--THE TWO OF
YOU ARE HIS GREAT
WEAKNESS.



A WOMAN
HE ONCE
LOVED--

--AND A
CHILD HE SO
DESPERATELY WANTS
TO SAVE. SUCH A
NOBLE CREATURE,
THE SPIDER.
ISN'T HE?



NO.
NO, NO,
NO--

YOU'RE
USING ME
AS **BAIT**?! DO YOU
HAVE ANY IDEA HOW
INSULTING THAT IS?!
HOW **INFURIATING**
THAT IS?!

WELL, GOOD
LUCK, BUDDY.
BECAUSE IF **HE** DOESN'T
KILL YOU, I WILL. THEN
AGAIN, YOU'VE NEVER
BEEN ABLE TO BEAT HIM
BEFORE, SO I PROBABLY
WON'T GET SO
LUCKY--

HH. YOU
MISUNDERSTAND,
CAT--



--I AM NOT THE
ONE HUNTING
HIM THIS TIME."

DEAD
END.

IF FELICIA AND BILLY
WERE HERE, THEY'RE
NOT ANYMORE.

SOMEONE MUST
HAVE *MOVED* THEM,
OR, THE POSSIBILITY
I CAN'T REALLY
CONSIDER--

--I'M TOO
LATE.

DEATH. BEEN
SO MUCH OF
THAT LATELY.
LOSING
FLASH...

...LOSING NED ALL
OVER AGAIN... AND
I JUST CAN'T SHAKE
THE FEELING MORE
IS *COMING*.

THAT SOMETHING
TRULY TERRIBLE IS
ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
TO SOMEONE EVEN
CLOSER TO ME.
SOMEONE LIKE--

NO! STOP THAT. WHAT
IS *WRONG* WITH YOU
TONIGHT?! YOU CAN'T
THINK LIKE--LIKE...

YOU CAN'T THINK *AT
ALL*. HEAD IS POUNDING.
CAN'T SEEM TO CATCH
MY BREATH, EITHER.
THROAT CLOSING UP LIKE
THERE'S SOMETHING--



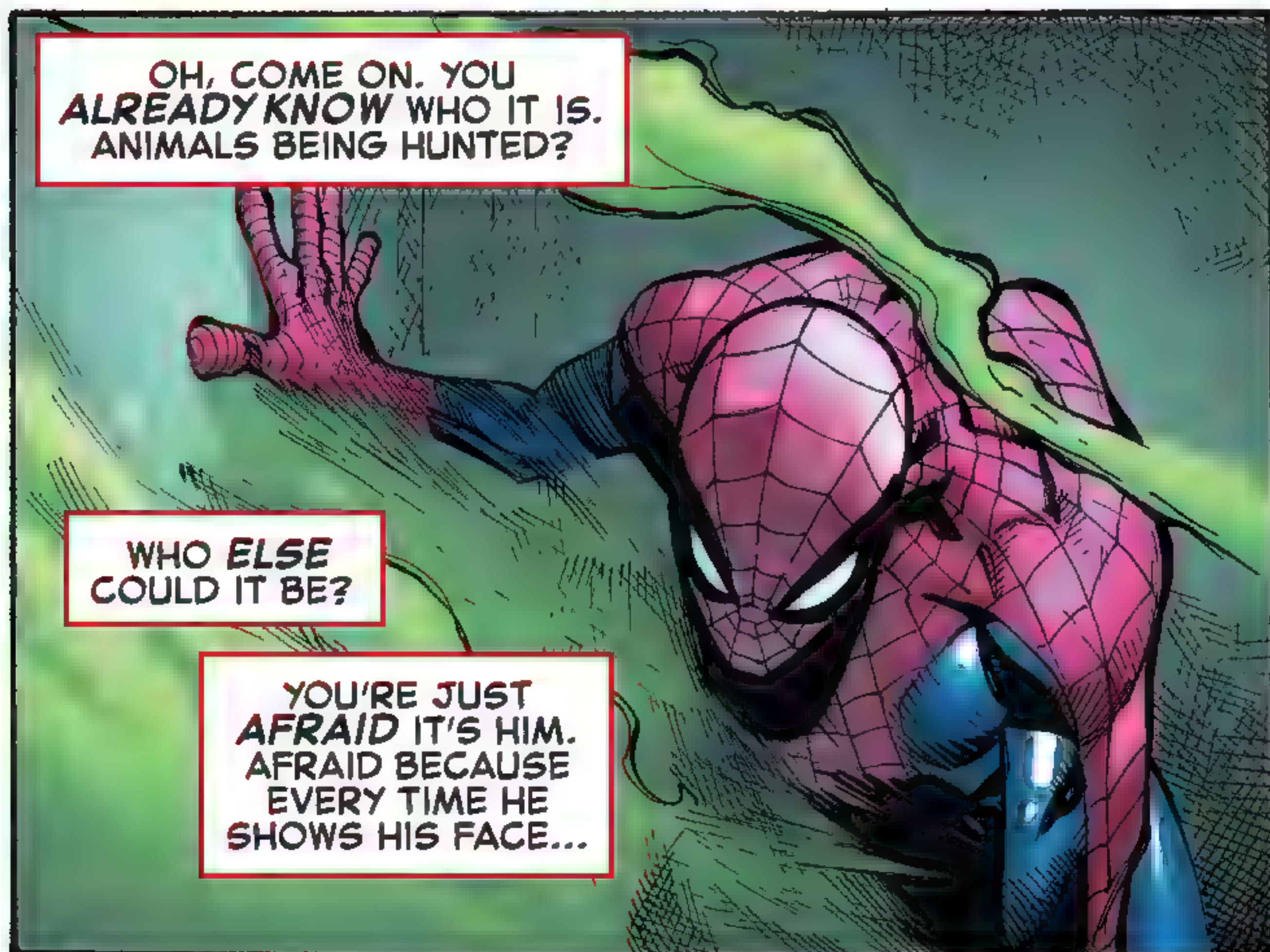
--IN THE AIR.

THAT...DOESN'T LOOK GOOD. SOME KIND OF CHEMICAL GETTING PUMPED IN...



NICE ONE, PARKER. YOU WALKED YOURSELF STRAIGHT INTO A *TRAP*.

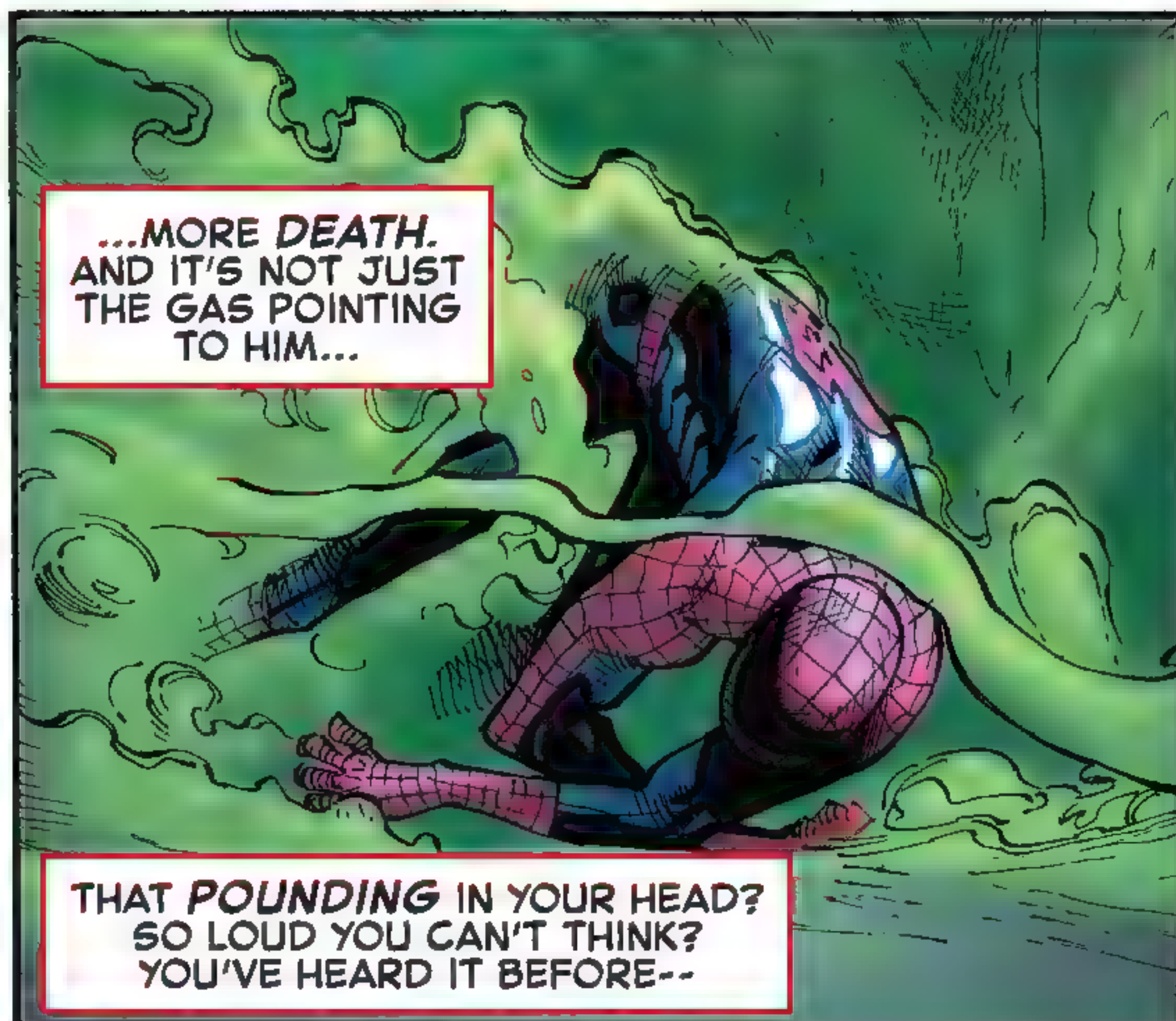
HOW DID YOU *NOT* SEE THAT COMING?! WHOEVER THIS IS...



OH, COME ON. YOU *ALREADY KNOW* WHO IT IS. ANIMALS BEING HUNTED?

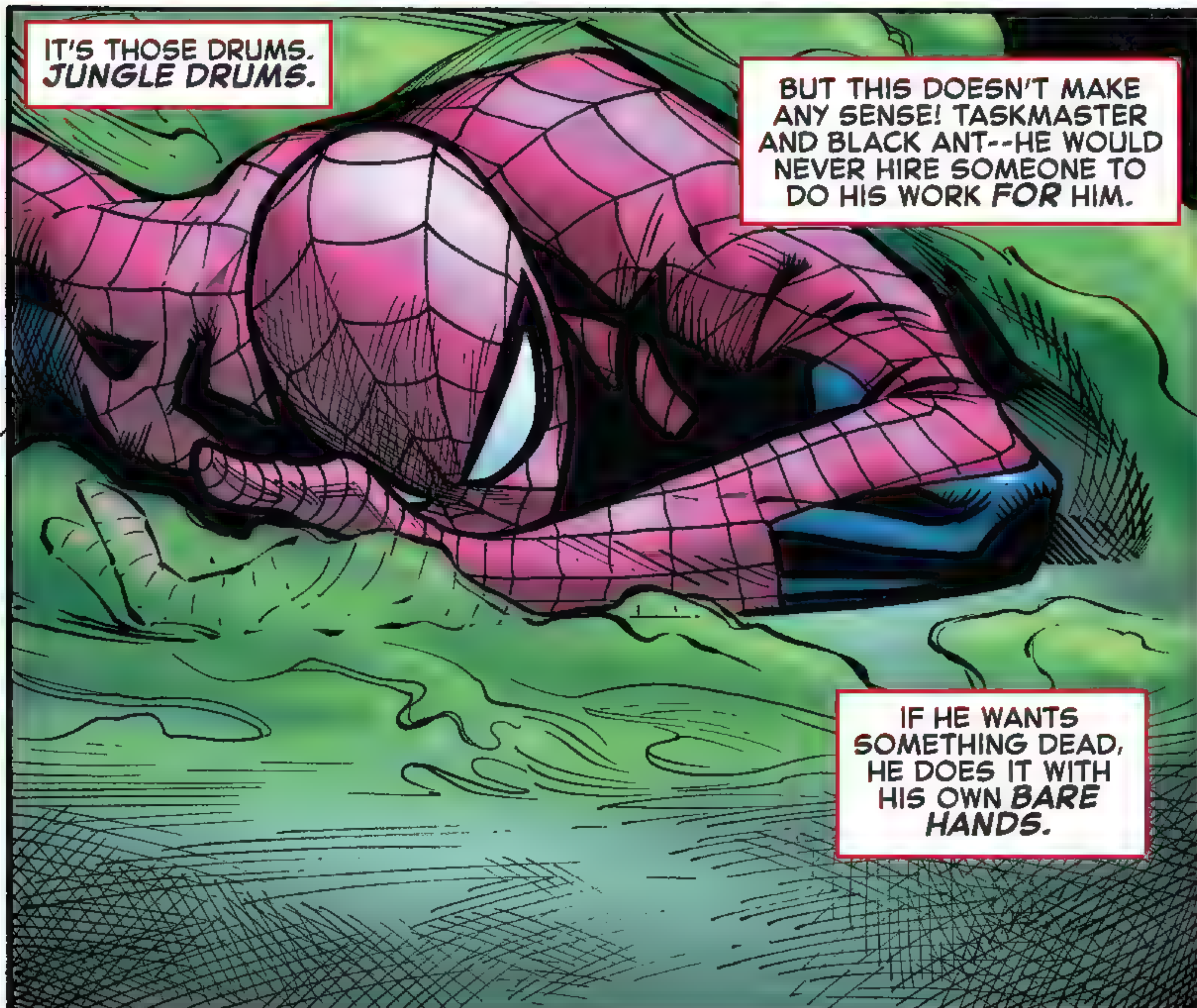
WHO *ELSE* COULD IT BE?

YOU'RE JUST *AFRAID* IT'S HIM. AFRAID BECAUSE EVERY TIME HE SHOWS HIS FACE...



...MORE *DEATH*. AND IT'S NOT JUST THE GAS POINTING TO HIM...

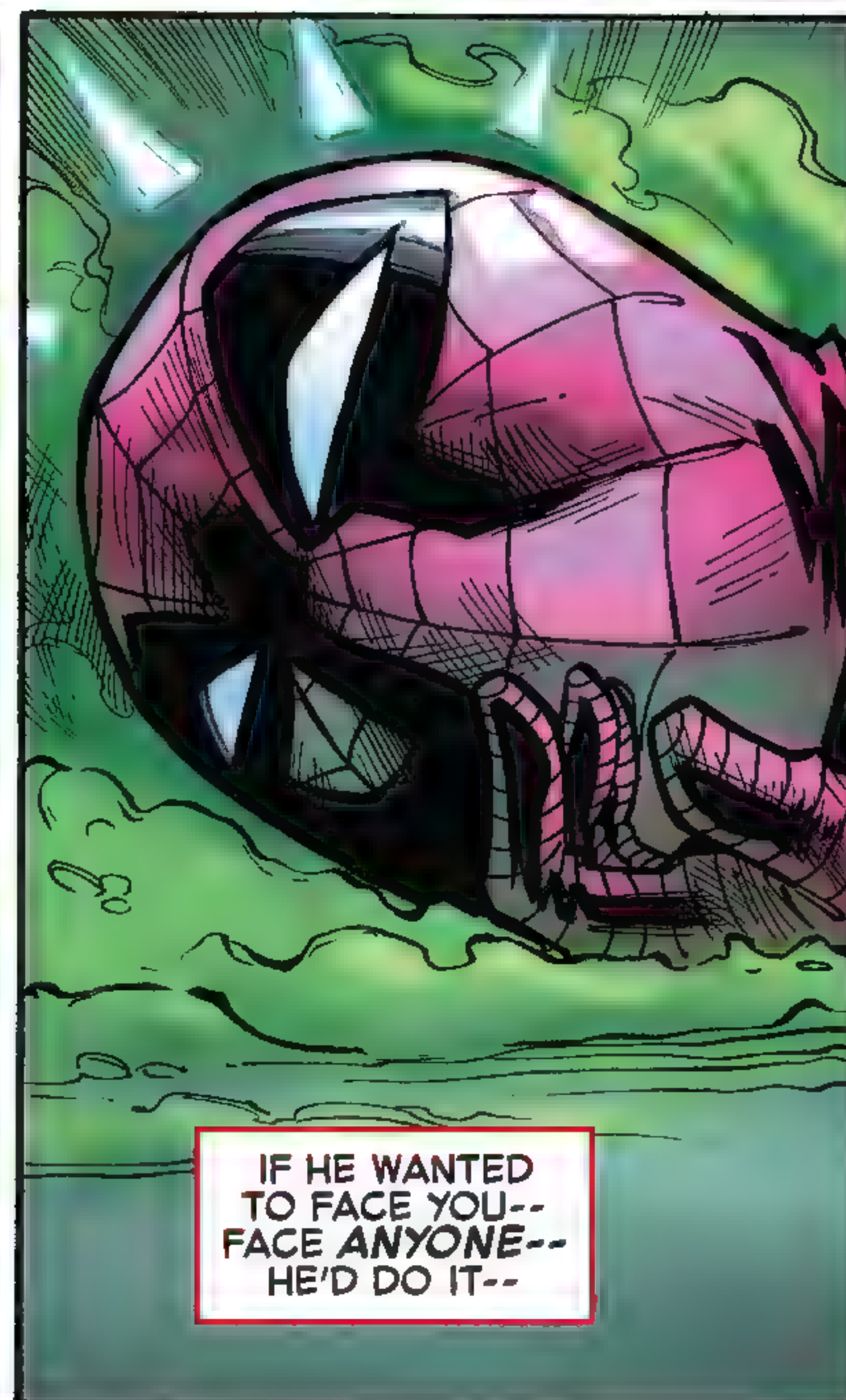
THAT *POUNDING* IN YOUR HEAD? SO LOUD YOU CAN'T THINK? YOU'VE HEARD IT BEFORE--



IT'S THOSE DRUMS. *JUNGLE DRUMS*.

BUT THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE! TASKMASTER AND BLACK ANT--HE WOULD NEVER HIRE SOMEONE TO DO HIS WORK *FOR* HIM.

IF HE WANTS SOMETHING DEAD, HE DOES IT WITH HIS OWN *BARE HANDS*.



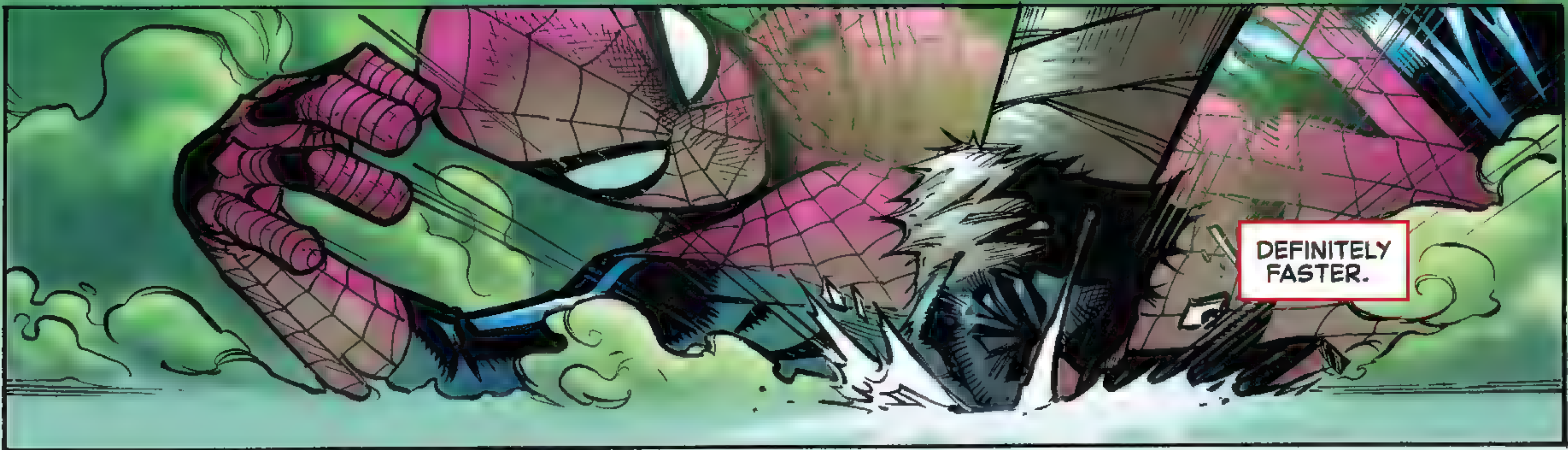
IF HE WANTED TO FACE YOU-- FACE *ANYONE*-- HE'D DO IT--

--IN THE
FLESH.

KRAVEN?

IT LOOKS **JUST**
LIKE HIM, BUT
SOMEHOW
YOUNGER.
BIGGER, MAYBE--

SPIDER.



DEFINITELY
FASTER.



GETTING WORSE. WON'T
LAST LONG LIKE THIS.
SEEING DOUBLE NOW--

--AND ONE OF
THIS GUY IS MORE
THAN ENOUGH!



YOU FEEL
THEM, DON'T
YOU? THE MISTS
CONTAIN MANY
SECRETS...

HN--IS
ONE OF THEM YOUR
**MOISTURIZING
ROUTINE?** BECAUSE
NOT GONNA LIE,
YOU'RE LOOKING
GREAT FOR
YOUR AGE...

KEEP JOKING
BUT...I'M FALLING
APART...



CAN'T
FIGHT.

SOME
SAY THEY SHOW
YOU THE DARKEST
PARTS OF YOUR
SOUL, WHERE YOUR
FEARS HIDE IN
WAITING.



GNN--YEAH,
THEY'RE NOT
PLEASANT. BUT
NOT MUCH OF A
FAIR FIGHT, KRAVEY--
POISONING A GUY
WITH SOME GAS
THAT DOESN'T
AFFECT YOU...

CAN'T EVEN
STAND.



OH, BUT
YOU'RE WRONG,
SPIDER. IT **DOES**
AFFECT ME, JUST
LIKE IT DOES YOU.
MORE SO, EVEN,
I'D IMAGINE. THE
DIFFERENCE
IS--

JUST



--I WAS
BORN IN THAT
DARKNESS!

NEED



SLEEP.



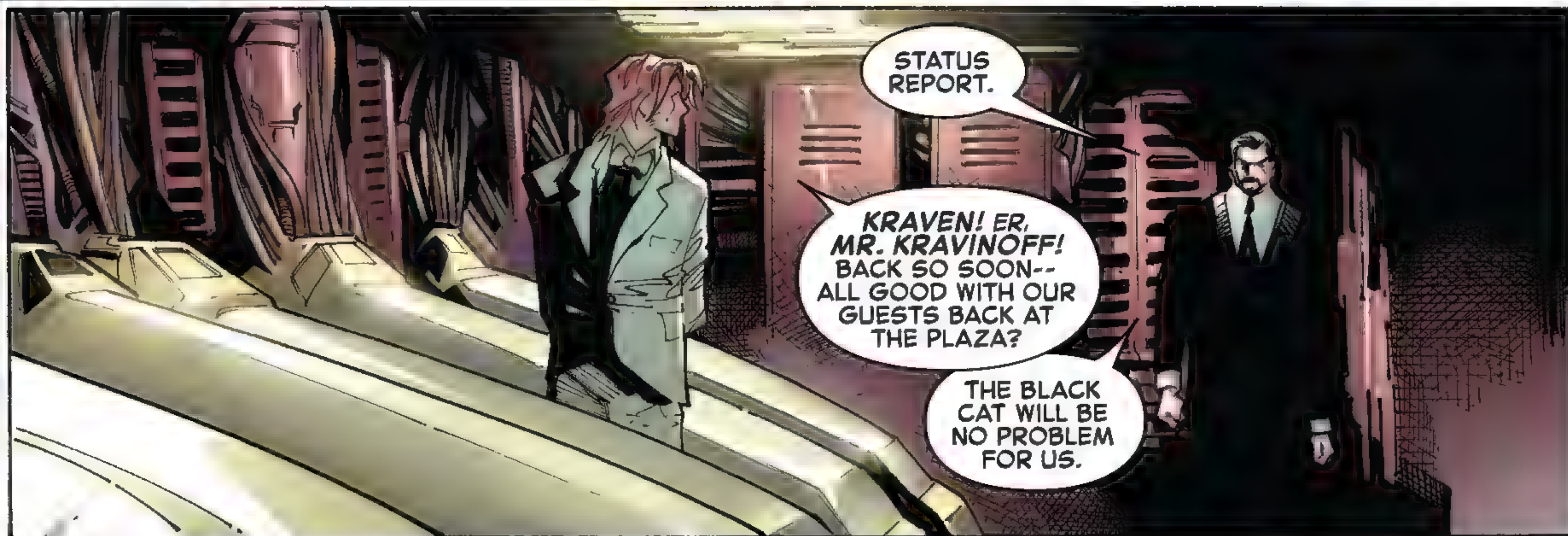
HOOGADA
BOOGADDA!



HEH. GUY
ONCE GAVE ME A
WEDGIE IN A BAR
BACK IN BAGALIA.
LOOK AT YA NOW,
MAN-BULL!

MAYBE
NEXT TIME YOU
DON'T GET SO
MAD AT A GUY FOR
RECOMMENDING
THAT YOU DO A
PROMOTIONAL
DEAL WITH
RED B--

ARCADE--



STATUS
REPORT.

KRAVEN! ER,
MR. KRAVINOFF!
BACK SO SOON--
ALL GOOD WITH OUR
GUESTS BACK AT
THE PLAZA?

THE BLACK
CAT WILL BE
NO PROBLEM
FOR US.



YOU SAY THAT, BUT
I'VE READ HER FILE.
YOU SHOULD CHECK
YOUR WALLET
JUST IN--

ALL OF THEM
SURVIVED
THE TRIP?

HUH? OH
YEAH--



SQUID'S A LITTLE WORSE FOR WEAR, BUT YEAH--WAS JUST DOING A DIAGNOSTIC CHECK-SLASH-TAUNTING SESSION WITH THE LOT. ALL ALIVE AND KICKING IN CRYOGENIC FREEZE, BOSS.

HNN. GOOD. AND THE SHIELD?

JUST WAITING TO GO ONLINE. WHICH BRINGS ME TO AN UNCOMFORTABLE SUBJECT--



WE'VE SECURED THE AREA. YOUR MEN HAVE SWEEPED FOR CIVILIANS AND ARE READY TO "REDIRECT" THEM ON A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

BUT I WOULDN'T WAIT TOO MANY MORE MOMENTS TO GIVE NOTICE, IF YOU FOLLOW ME. OUR BOYS IN THE BALLROOM--



"--THEY'RE GETTING A LITTLE RESTLESS."



THEY WILL WAIT.

OF COURSE THEY WILL. IT'S AN OPEN BAR. BUT I DON'T REALLY FOLLOW--WHY THE DELAY?

WE HAVE ONE MORE COMING...



...ONE LAST TROPHY TO COLLECT.



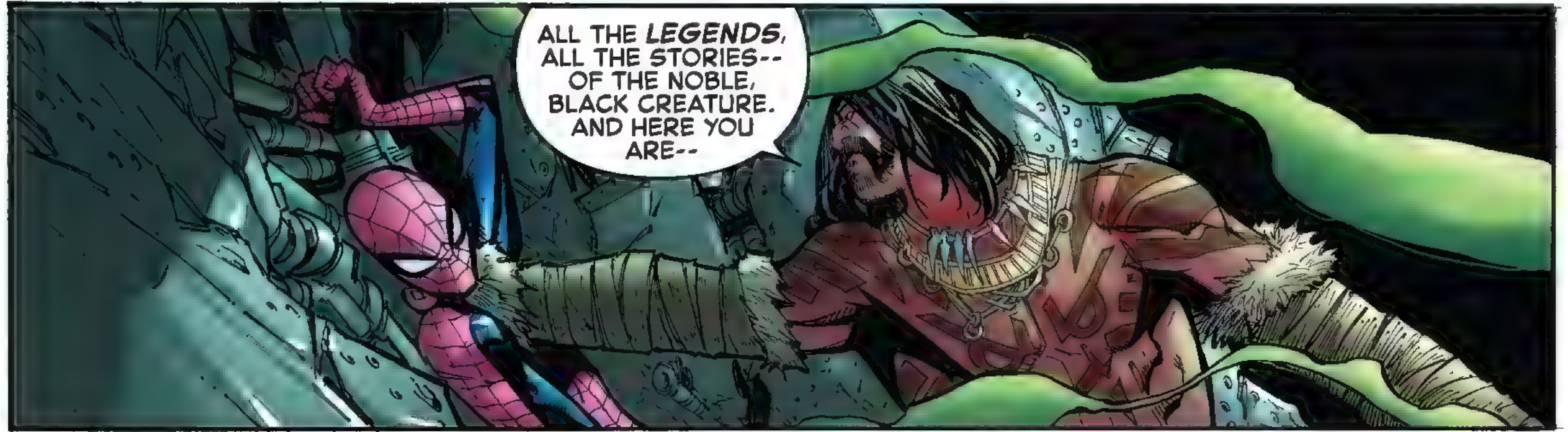
I MUST
ADMIT I AM
SADDENED,
SPIDER--

KRASH!

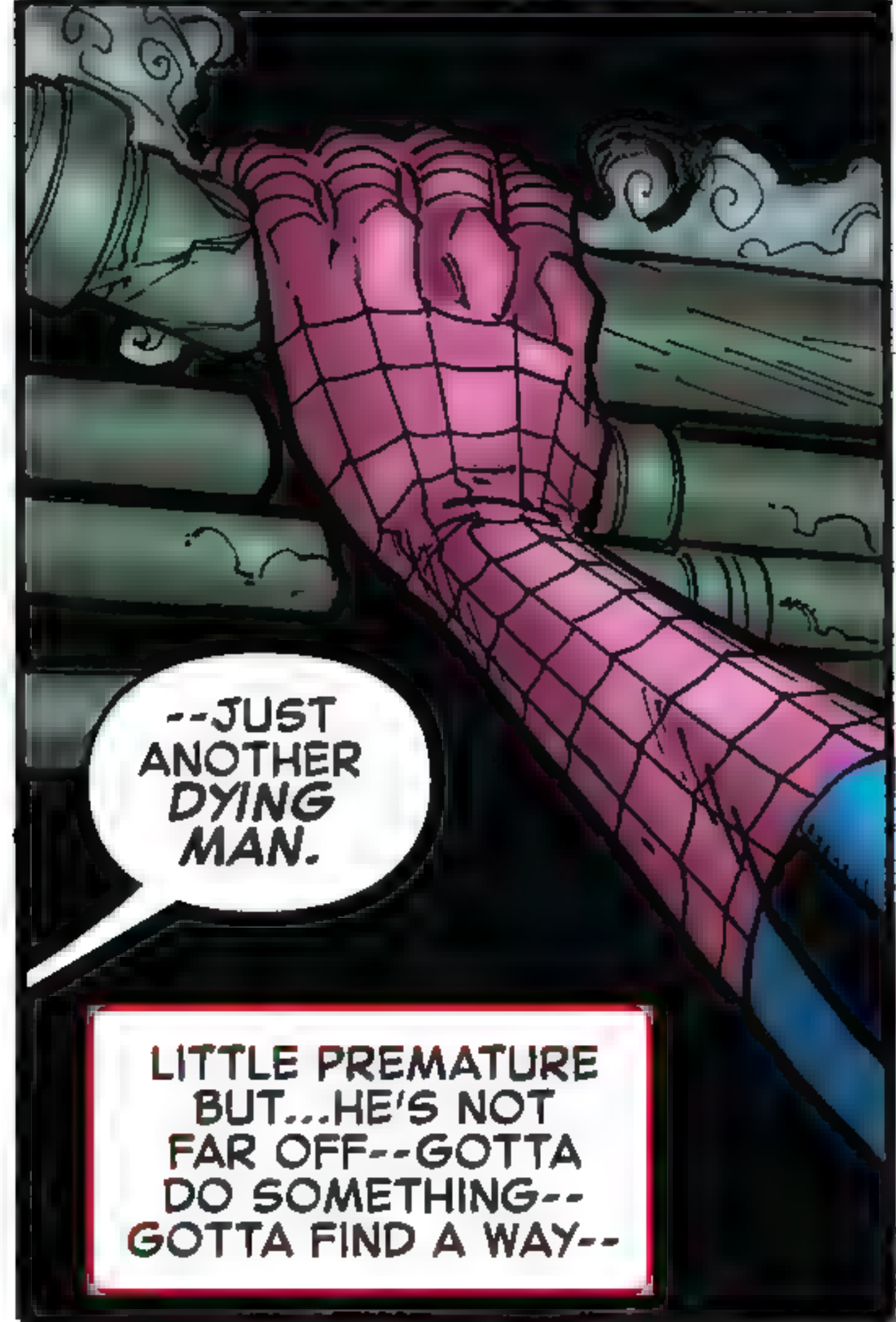


--I THOUGHT
THIS WOULD
BE MORE OF A
CHALLENGE.

YEAH, WELL...
I LIVE TO
DISAPPOINT...



ALL THE **LEGENDS**,
ALL THE **STORIES**--
OF THE NOBLE,
BLACK CREATURE.
AND HERE YOU
ARE--



--JUST
ANOTHER
DYING
MAN.

LITTLE PREMATURE
BUT...HE'S NOT
FAR OFF--GOTTA
DO SOMETHING--
GOTTA FIND A WAY--



--TO KEEP
BREATHING.

COME ON THEN,
SPIDER-MAN...
PULL YOURSELF
TOGETHER.

FIND IT FOR LONG
ENOUGH TO GIVE
YOURSELF A
FIGHTING CHANCE.

PAP

THERE! DON'T
LET UP--KEEP
SWINGING!

KRAK

DON'T LET
YOURSELF DIE
DOWN HERE. STAY
ALIVE FOR--

--HER?

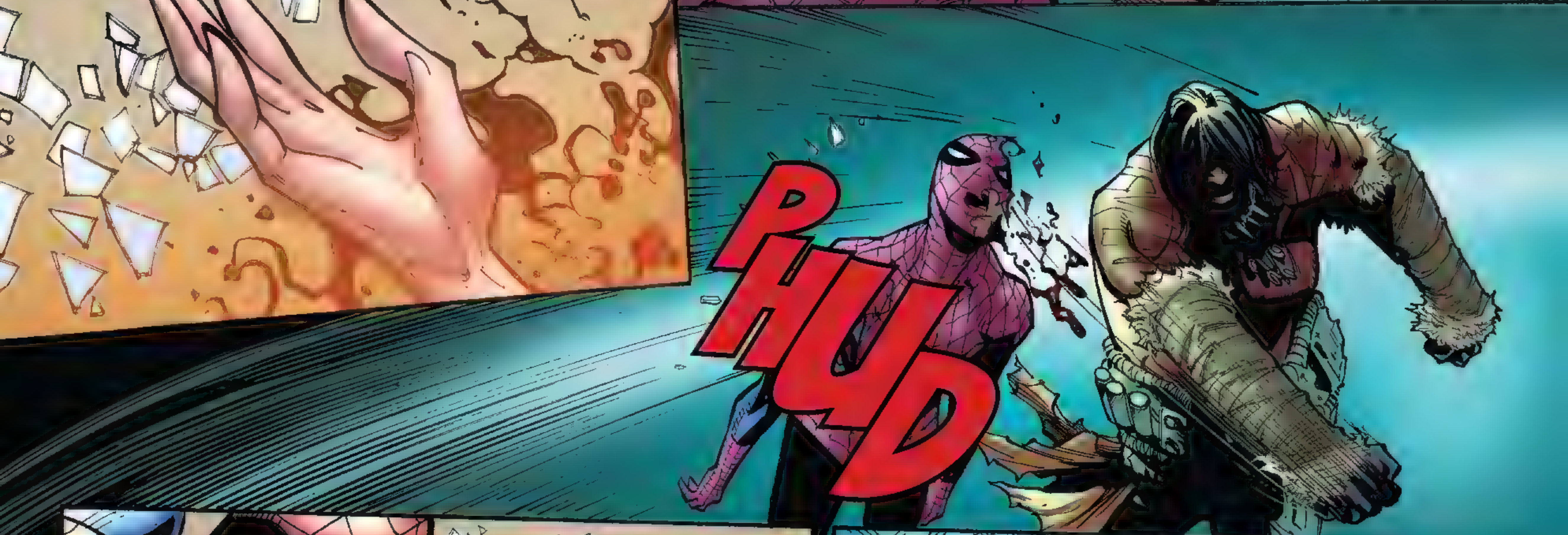
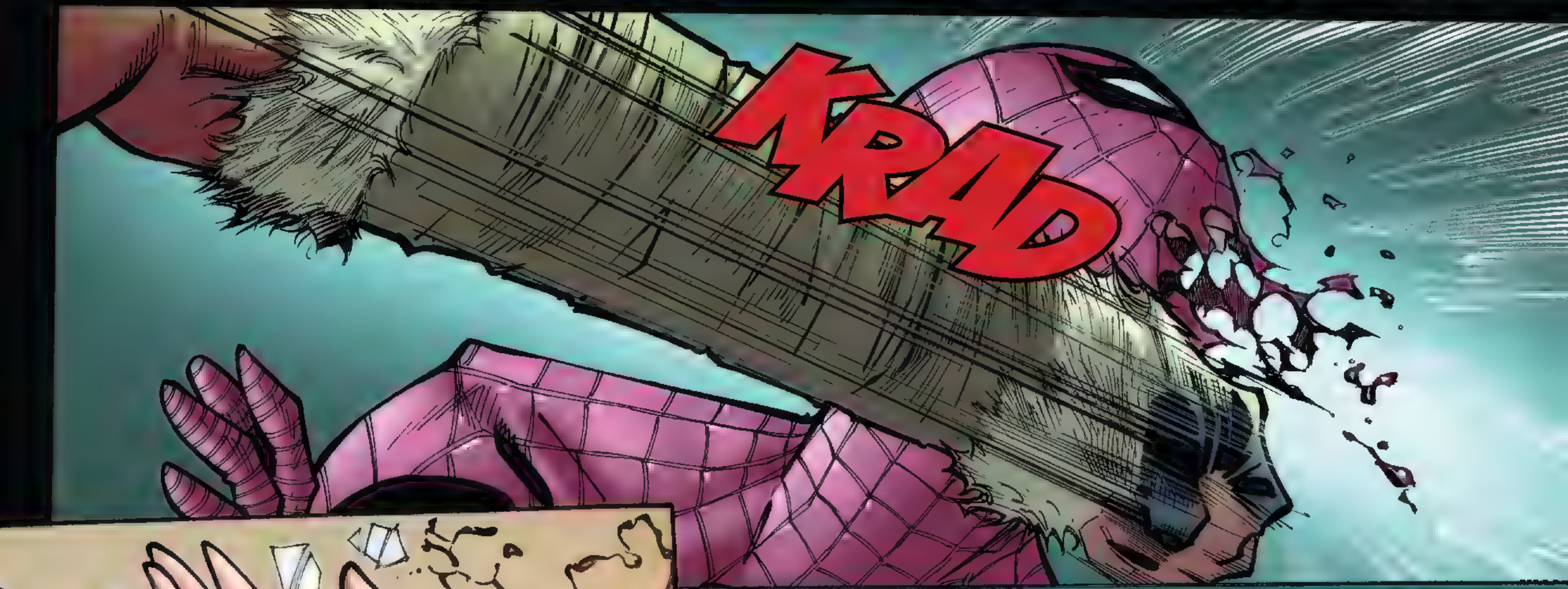
AYEEEEEE!

WAIT, THAT
VOICE--OH
GOD! THAT'S--

PEEETERRRR!

MJ!



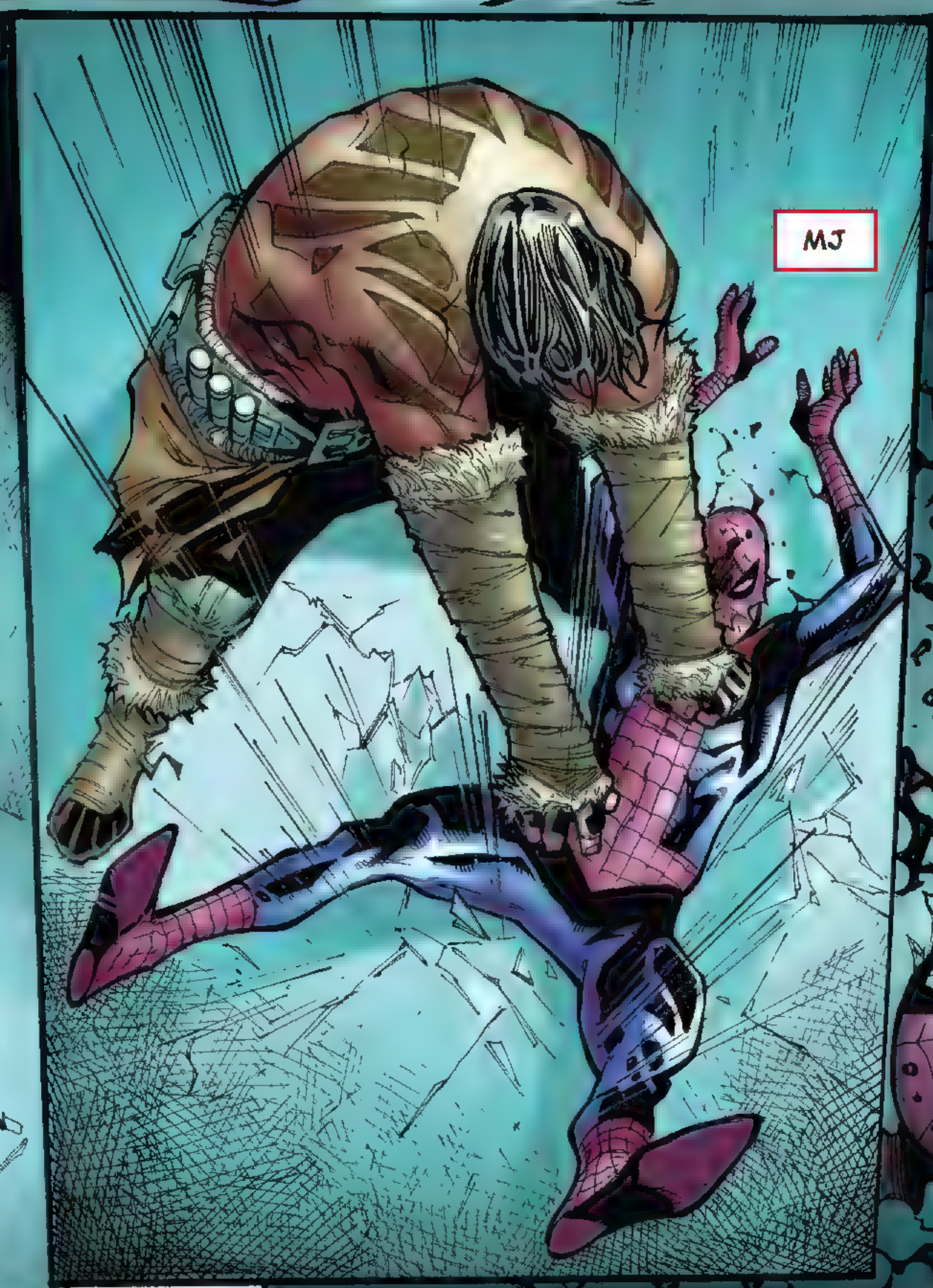




MJ



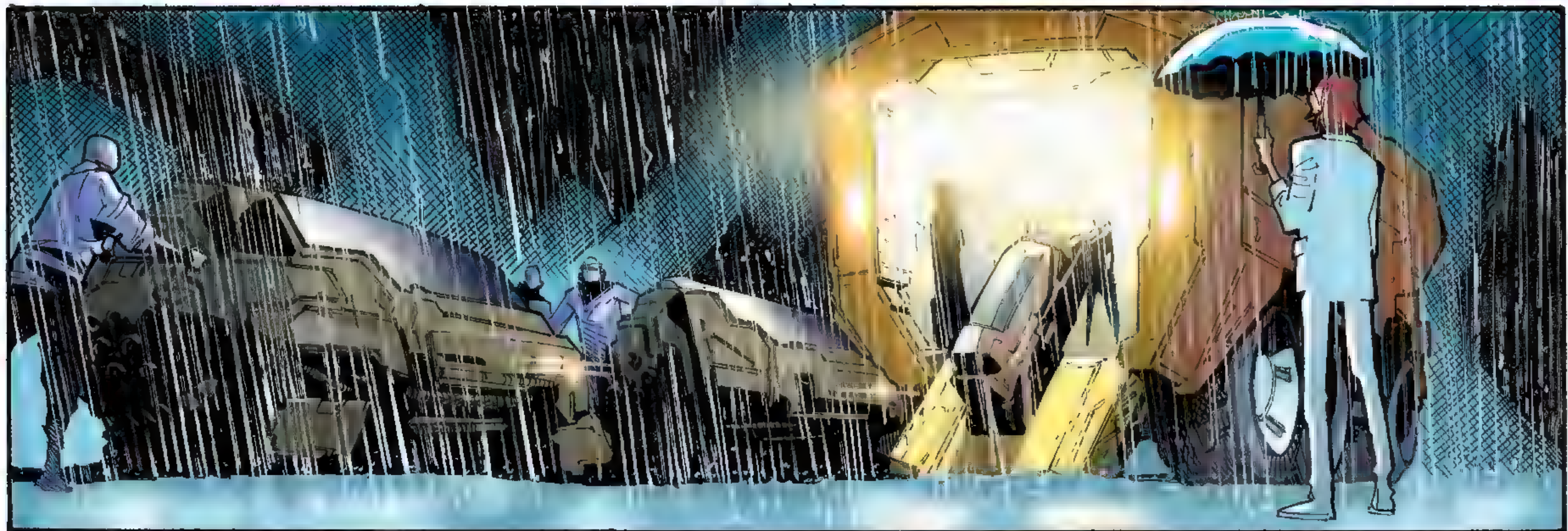
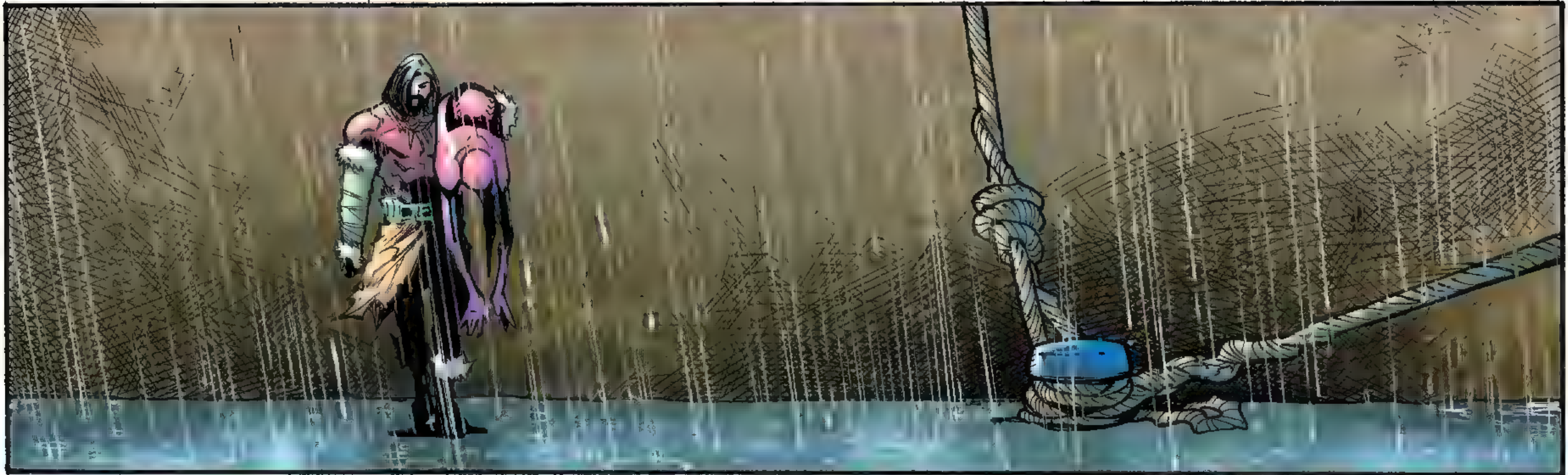
MJ

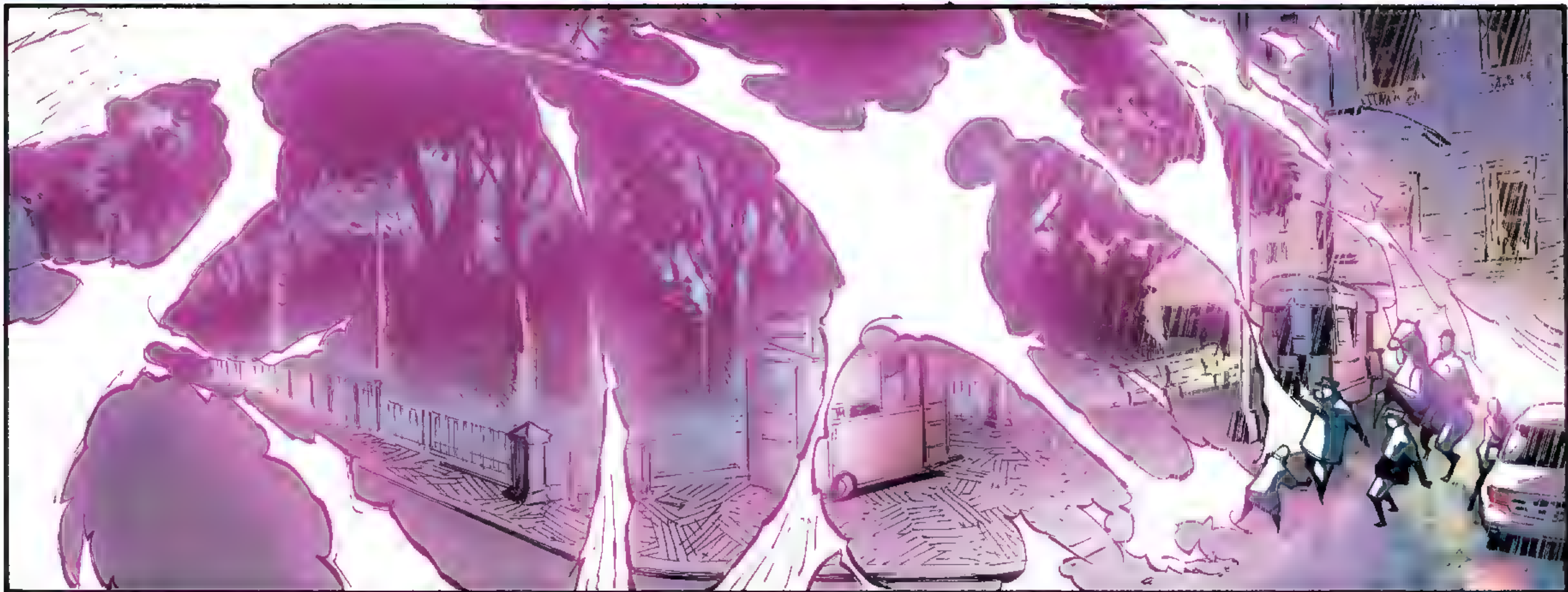
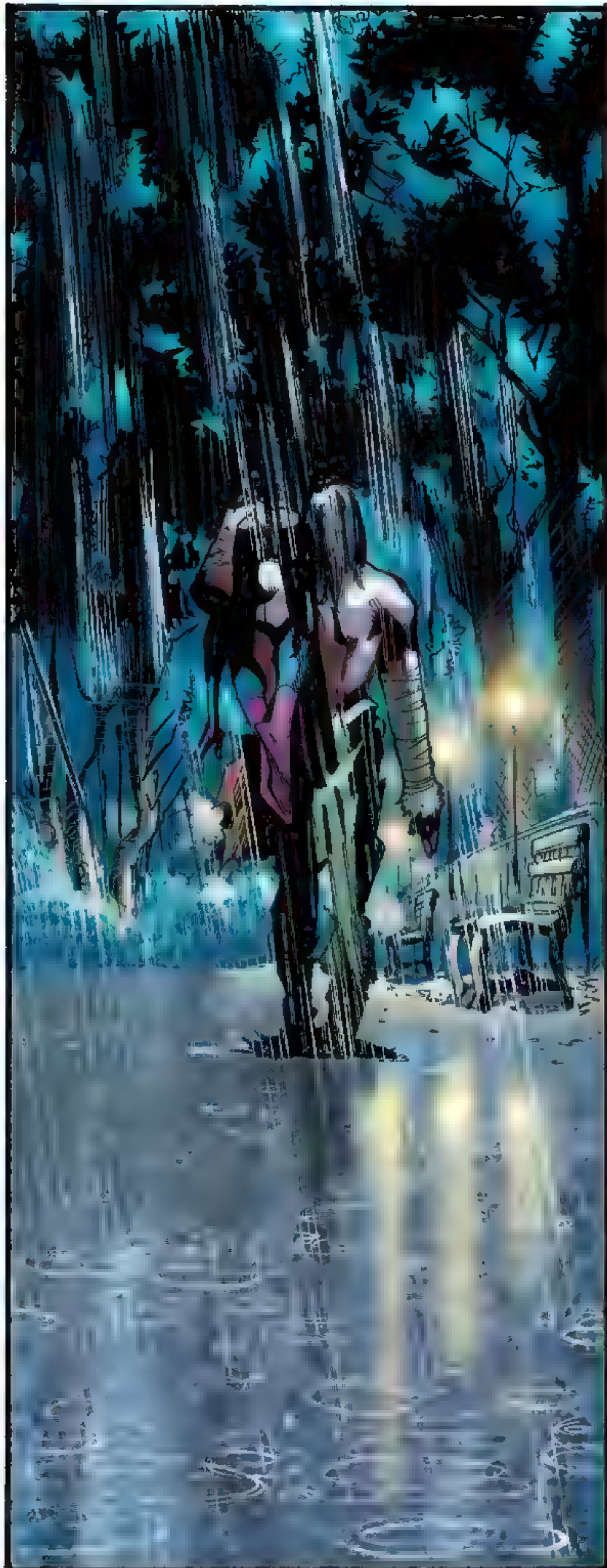


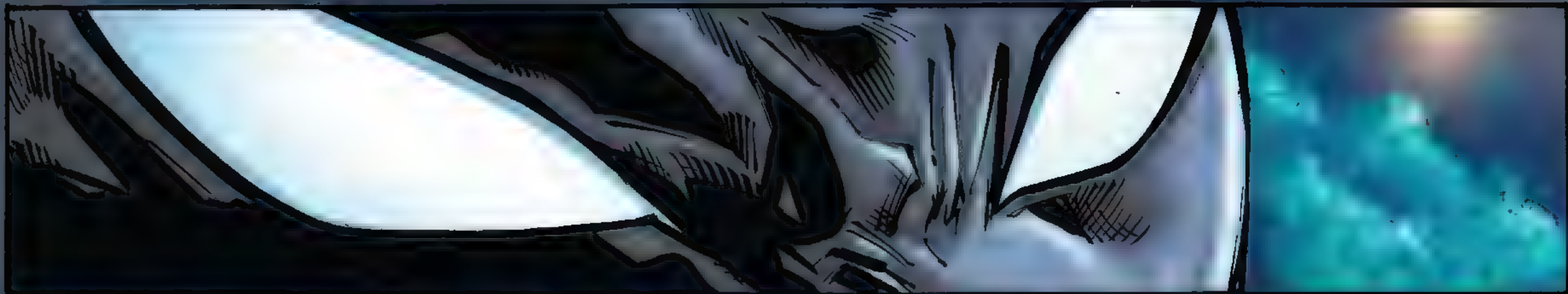
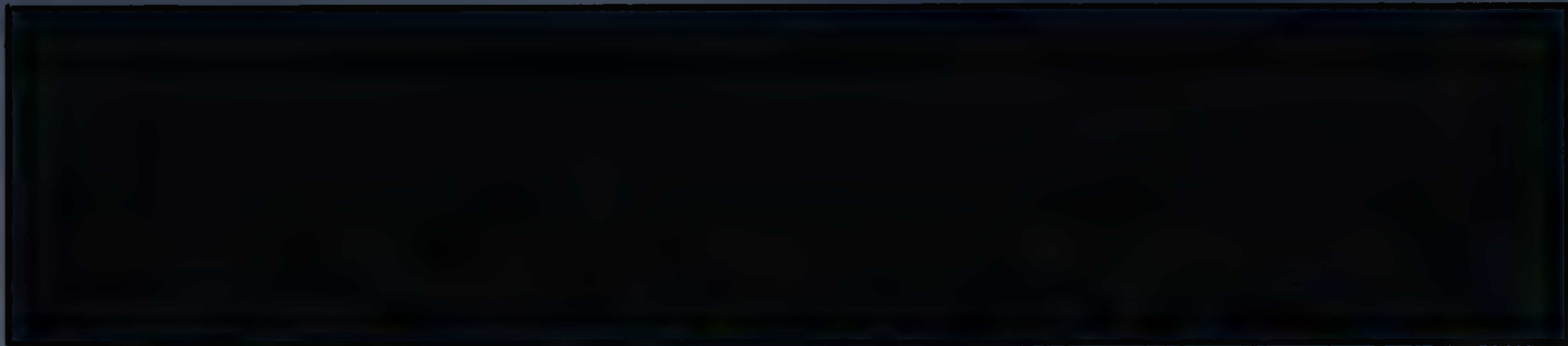
MJ



I'M SO SORRY







MJ!

MJ--
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENED TO
MJ--I HAVE TO
GET OUT OF--

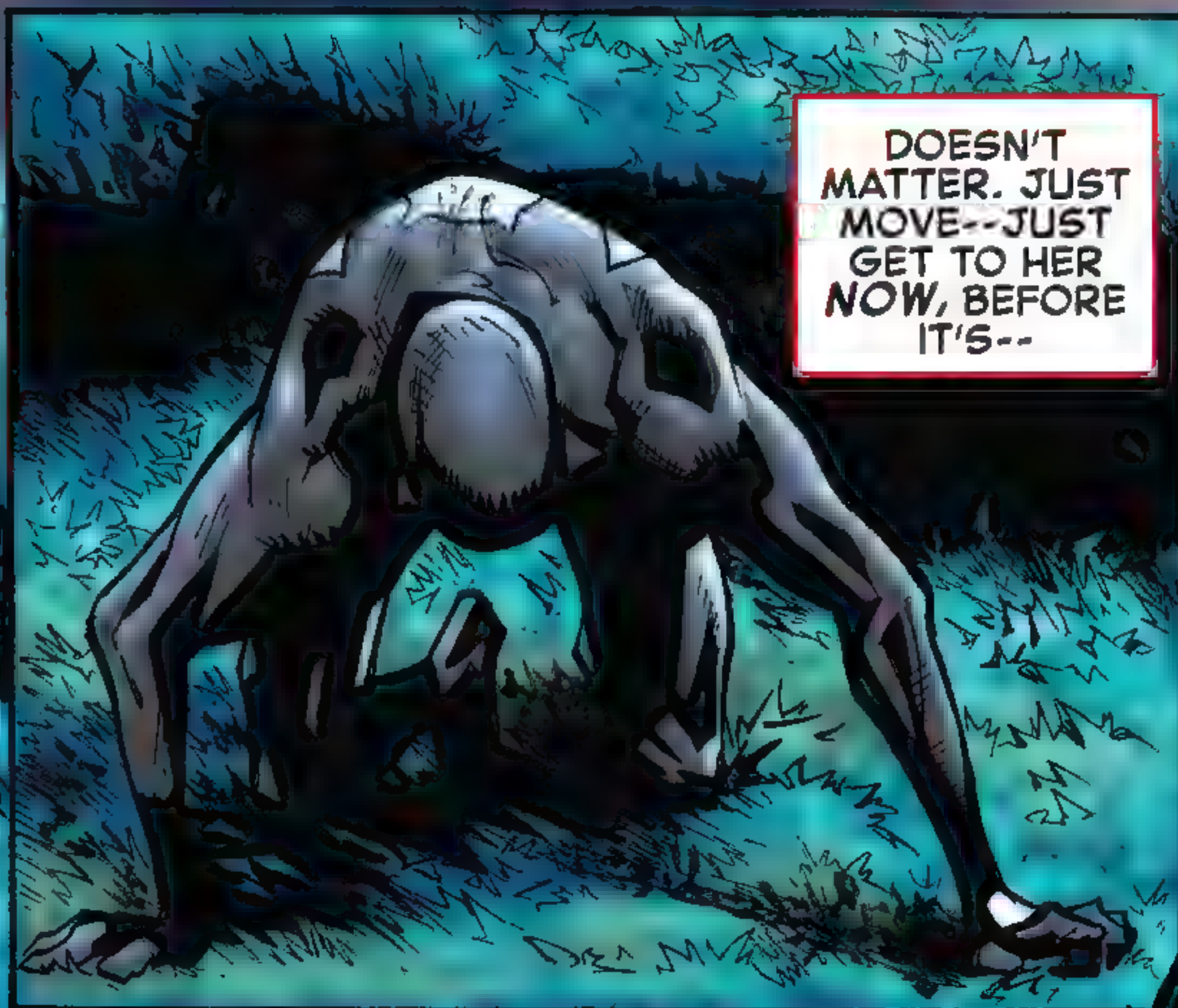


--HERE?

WAIT--WHERE
AM I? IS THIS--
CENTRAL
PARK?



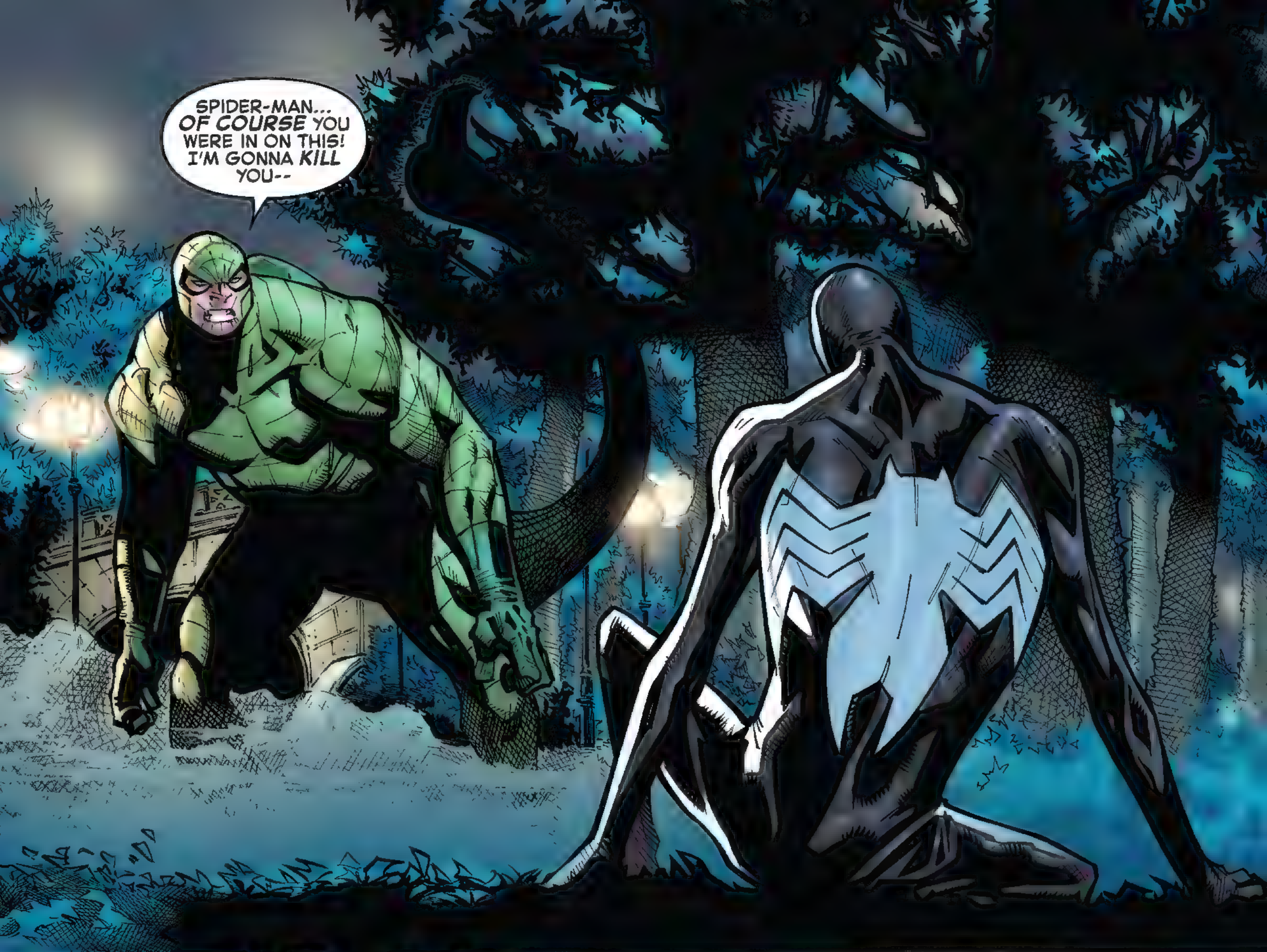
AND MY
COSTUME--WHO
CHANGED MY
COSTUME?



DOESN'T
MATTER. JUST
MOVE--JUST
GET TO HER
NOW, BEFORE
IT'S--



YOU--



SPIDER-MAN...
OF COURSE YOU
WERE IN ON THIS!
I'M GONNA KILL
YOU--



SCORPION?
AGAIN? WHAT
IS HE--

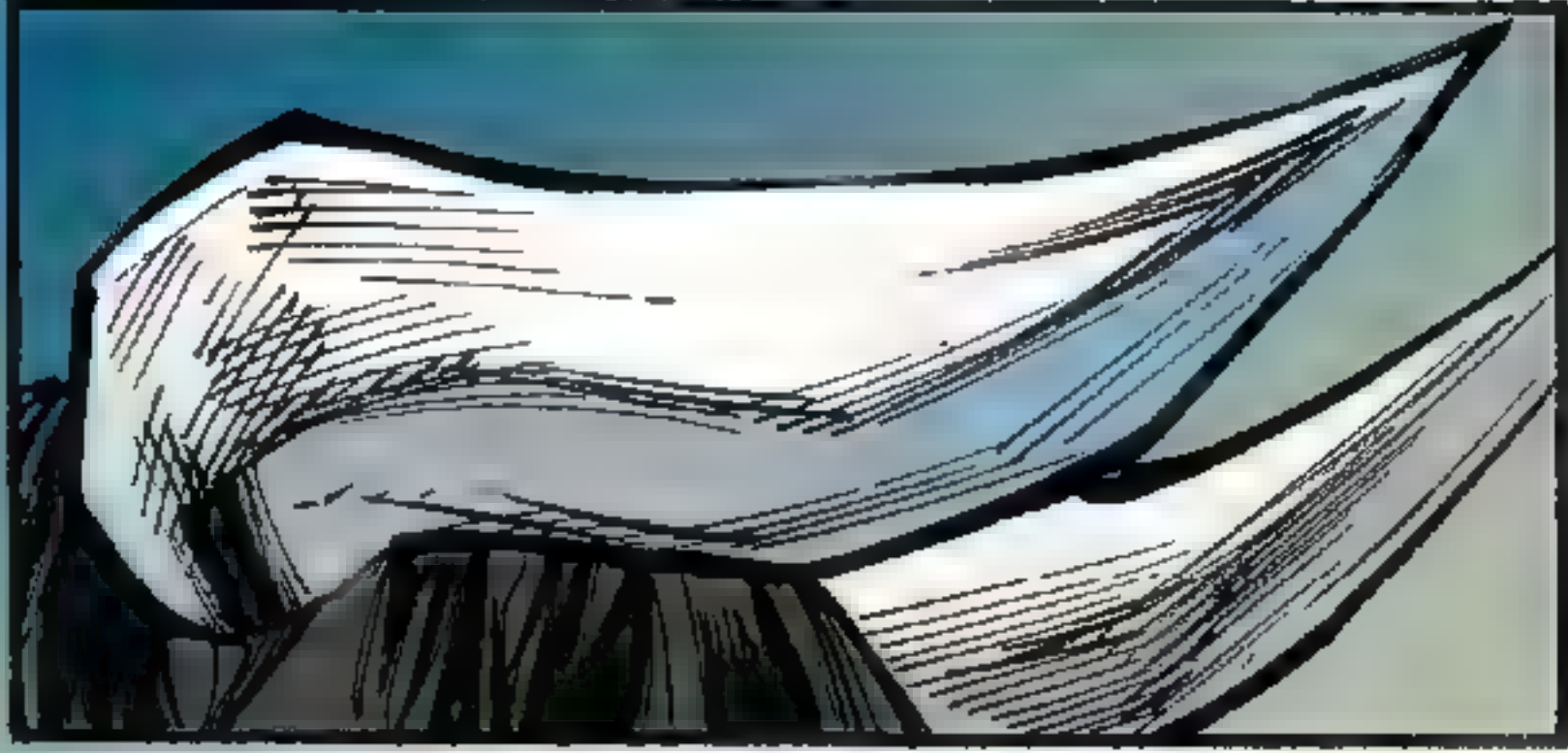
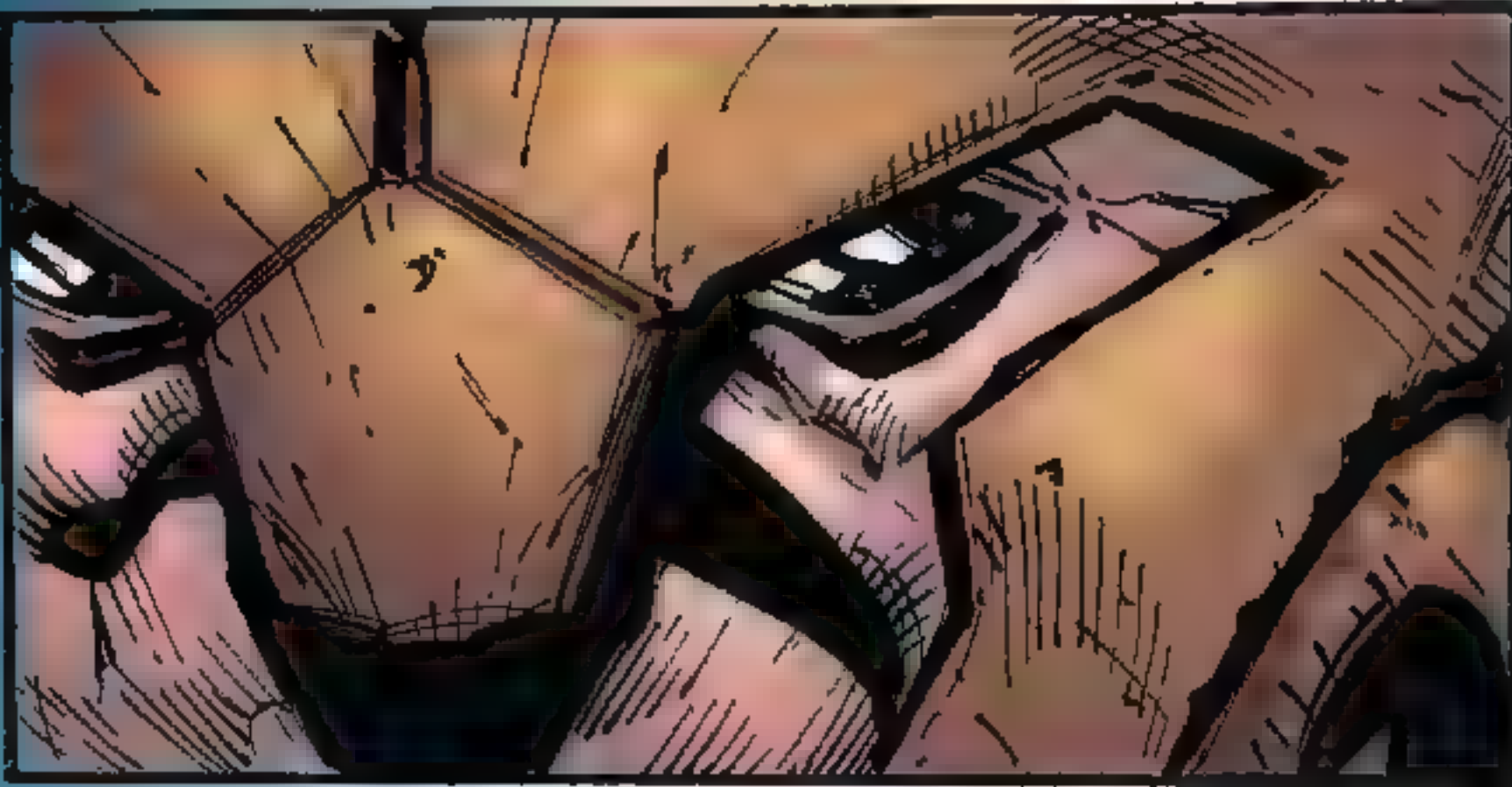
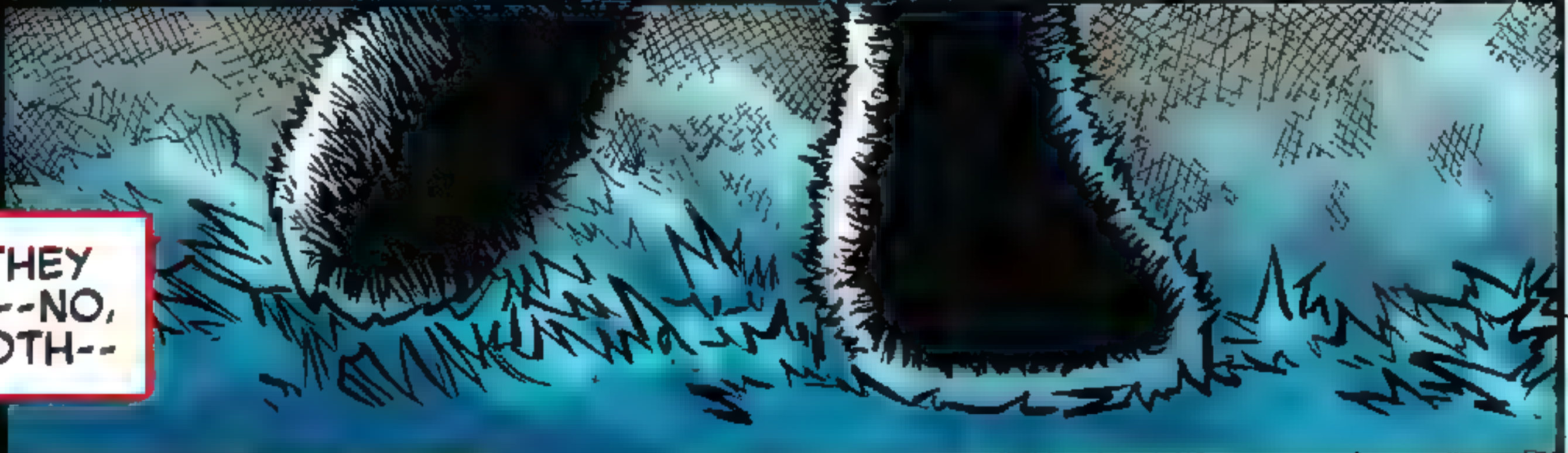
NOT IF
I KILL HIM
FIRST--



HELLO,
SPIDER. IT'S
BEEN SOME
TIME--

TARANTULA?

WHAT ARE THEY
BOTH DOING--NO,
NOT JUST BOTH--

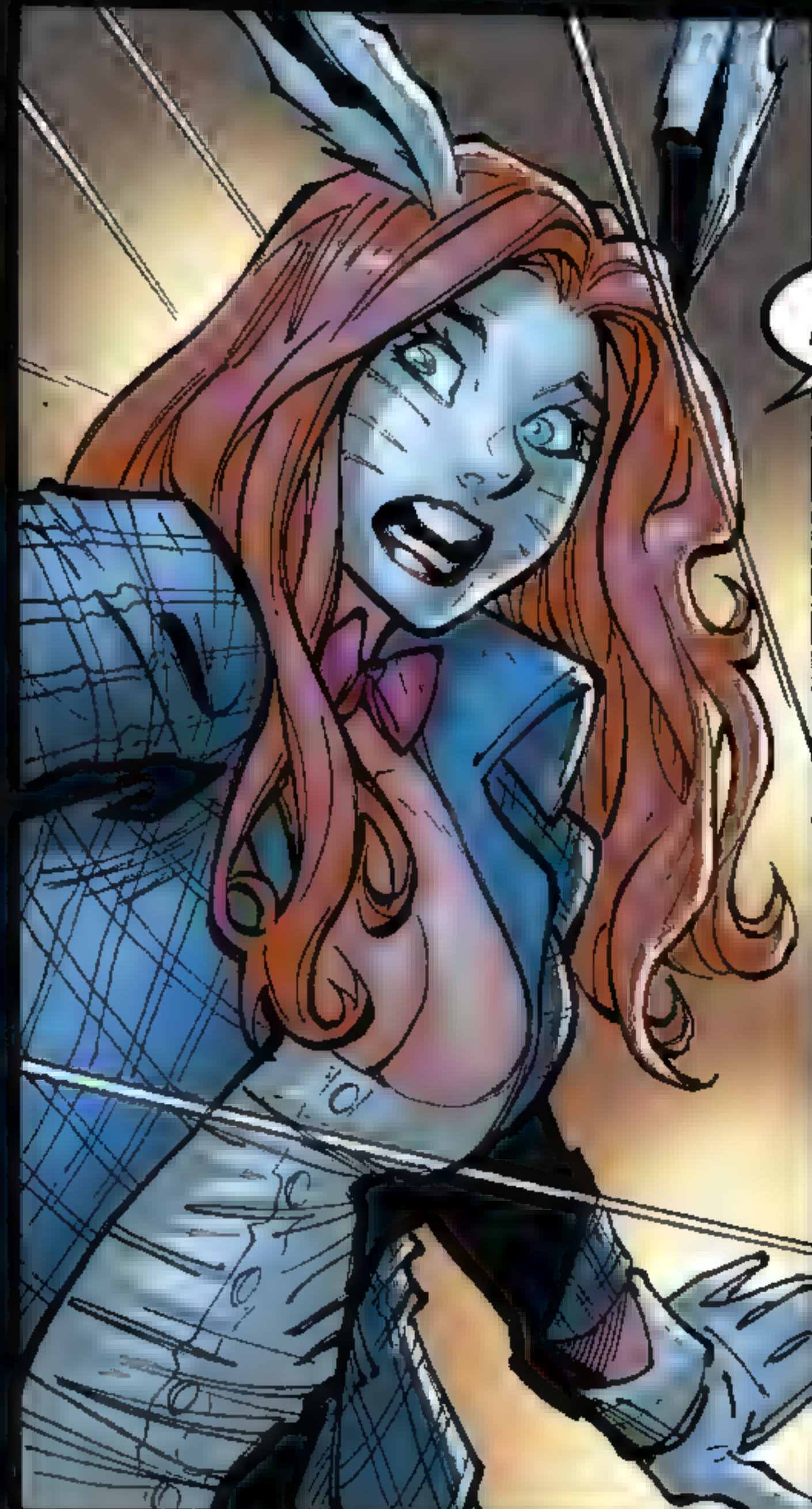
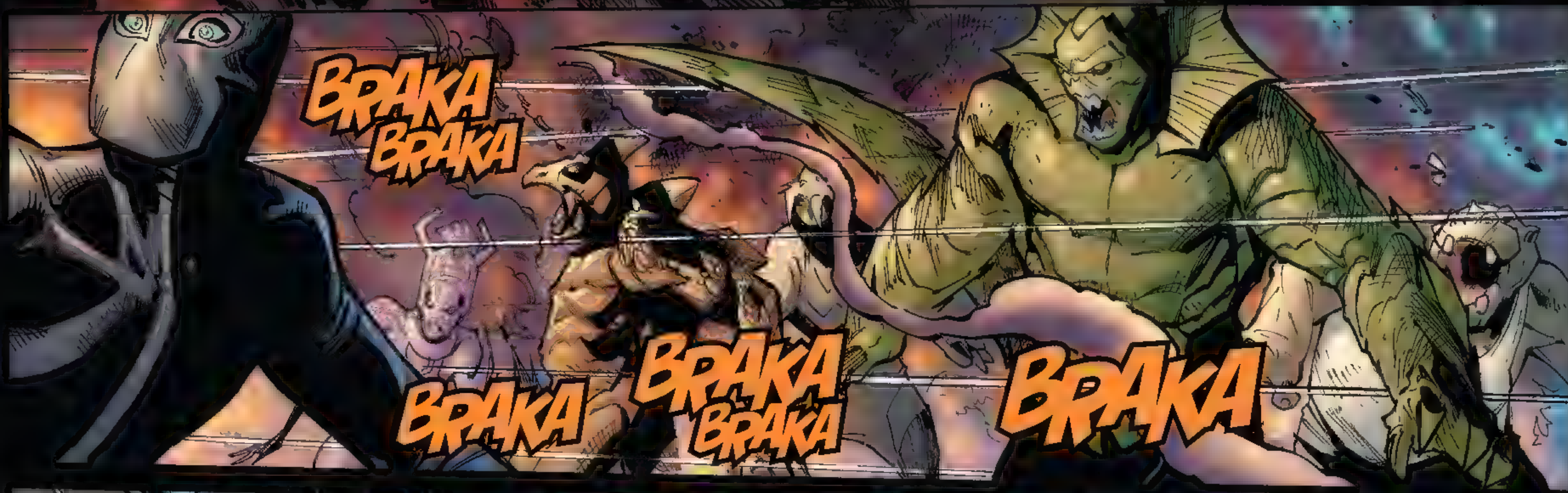
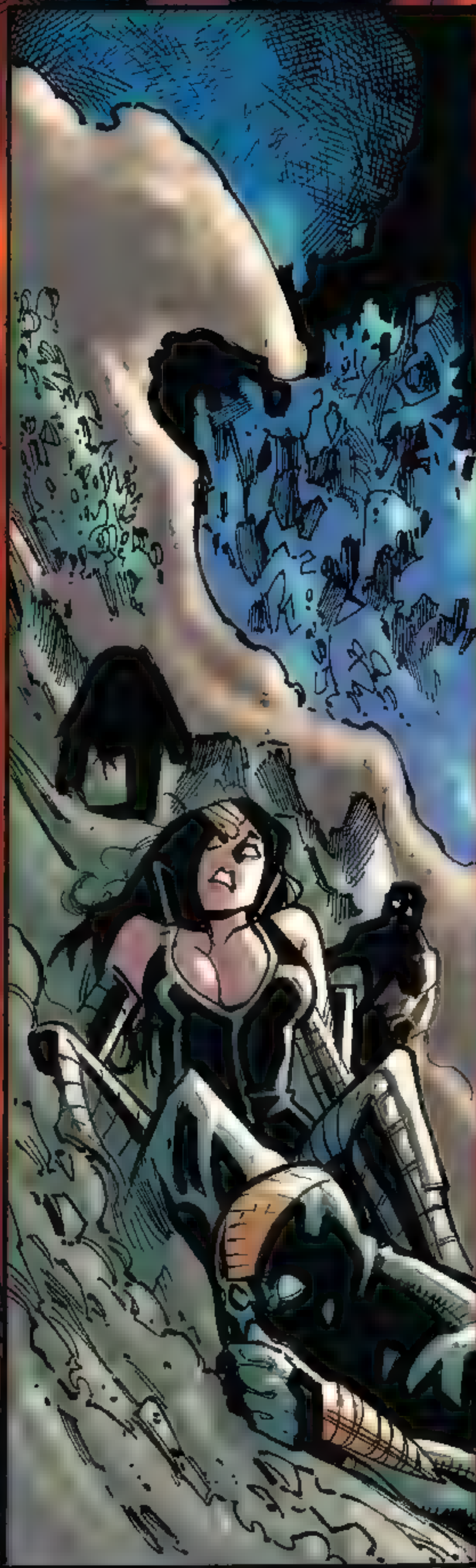


OH
GOD--



WHAT IS
THIS?











18

HUNTED PART 2



WE ALL USED TO
LIVE LIKE THIS,
YOU KNOW.



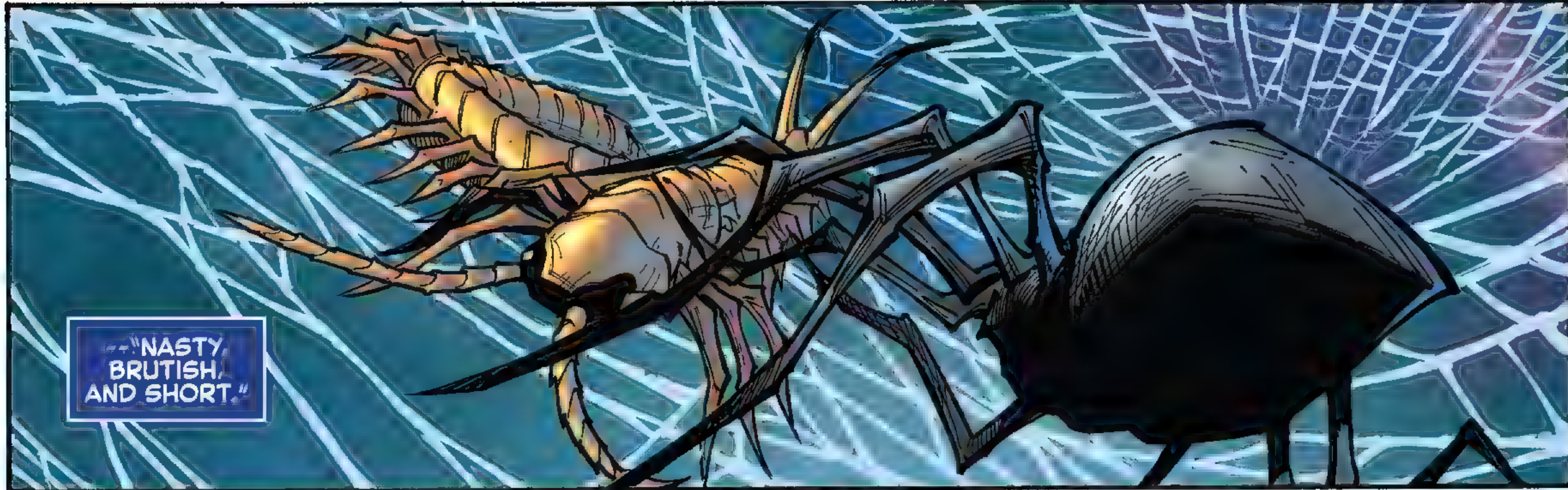
BEFORE
EVERYTHING
ELSE.

IT WAS
JUST US AND
NATURE.



NOT THAT I'M
SELLING IT,
MIND YOU.

HOBBES--THE PHILOSOPHER,
NOT THE TIGER FROM THOSE
ADORABLE CARTOONS--HAD
A WAY OF DESCRIBING
LIFE IN THAT STATE--



--"NASTY,
BRUTISH,
AND SHORT."



IT MEANT YOU SPENT
ALL YOUR NUMBERED
DAYS ON THE RUN,
PERPETUALLY FEARFUL
TRAPPED IN A CYCLE
OF VIOLENCE.

NEVER KNOWING
IF YOU WERE
THE HUNTER--

--OR THE
HUNTED.

CENTRAL
PARK

YEP, THAT'S ME--YOUR
FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD
SPIDER-MAN--SURROUNDED BY
SOME OF MY WORST ENEMIES.
YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING
HOW I GOT HERE--

--AND MAYBE WHY
THEY'RE NOT RIPPING
ME TO SHREDS RIGHT NOW.
WELL, THING IS, THEY'VE
GOT OTHER THINGS
TO WORRY ABOUT.

NAMELY,
THESE
GUYS--



--AN ARMY OF KRAVEN-
LOOKALIKE ROBOTS THAT
SUDDENLY STORMED INTO
CENTRAL PARK, FIRING
AT EVERYONE AND
EVERYTHING IN SIGHT.

GOTTA SAY, I'M A LITTLE SAD
IT TOOK SOMETHING LIKE
THIS TO BRING US TOGETHER.

WHY DO
YOU COWARDS
RUN?! FIGHT THE
HORDE--I WILL SHOW
THEM STEGRON'S
MIGHT!

GOOD
FOR YOU,
JURASSIC
PARK.

ME? I'M
GETTING
OUT OF--

SWACK!

OWWW!

SOME SORT
OF FORCE
FIELD!

SO WE'RE
SITTING
DUCKS.
DELIGHTFUL.

CAN'T BELIEVE I'M AGREEING
WITH THE OWL, BUT YEAH,
THIS ISN'T GREAT. TRAPPED
IN THE PARK WITH THESE...

HON, CHECK IT OUT! SEE
HOW I CLOCKED THAT
ONE?!

SURE DID,
BABE. SO HOT
FOR YOU RIGHT
NOW!

...KRAVENS? HON? *BABE*? THAT
DOESN'T SOUND VERY RUSSIAN.
(THEY SAY BABISHKA, RIGHT?)



THESE THINGS MAY
LOOK LIKE KRAVEN,
BUT THEY DEFINITELY
DON'T TALK OR
ACT LIKE HIM.

THEY'RE ALSO
STRONGER--



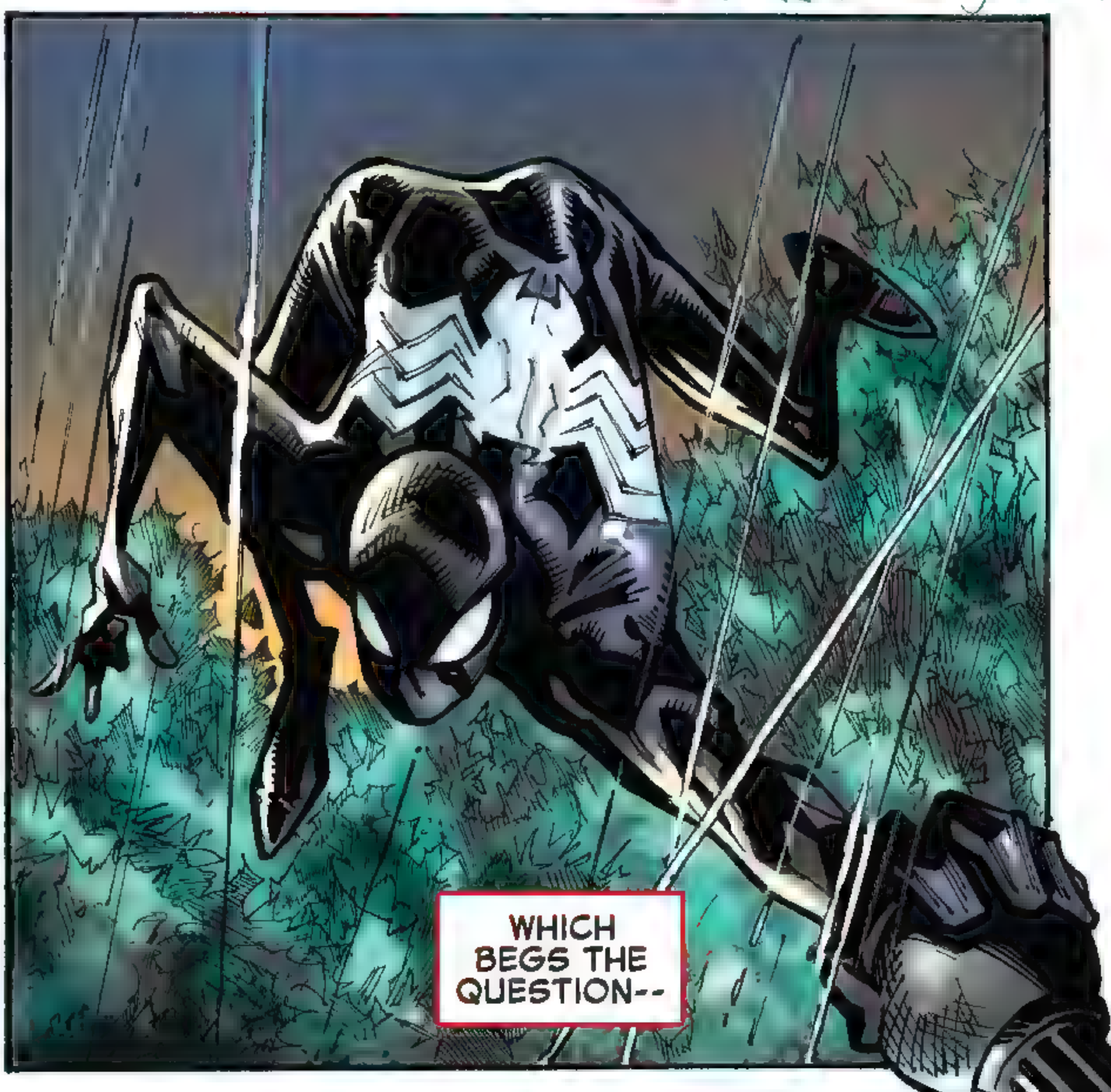
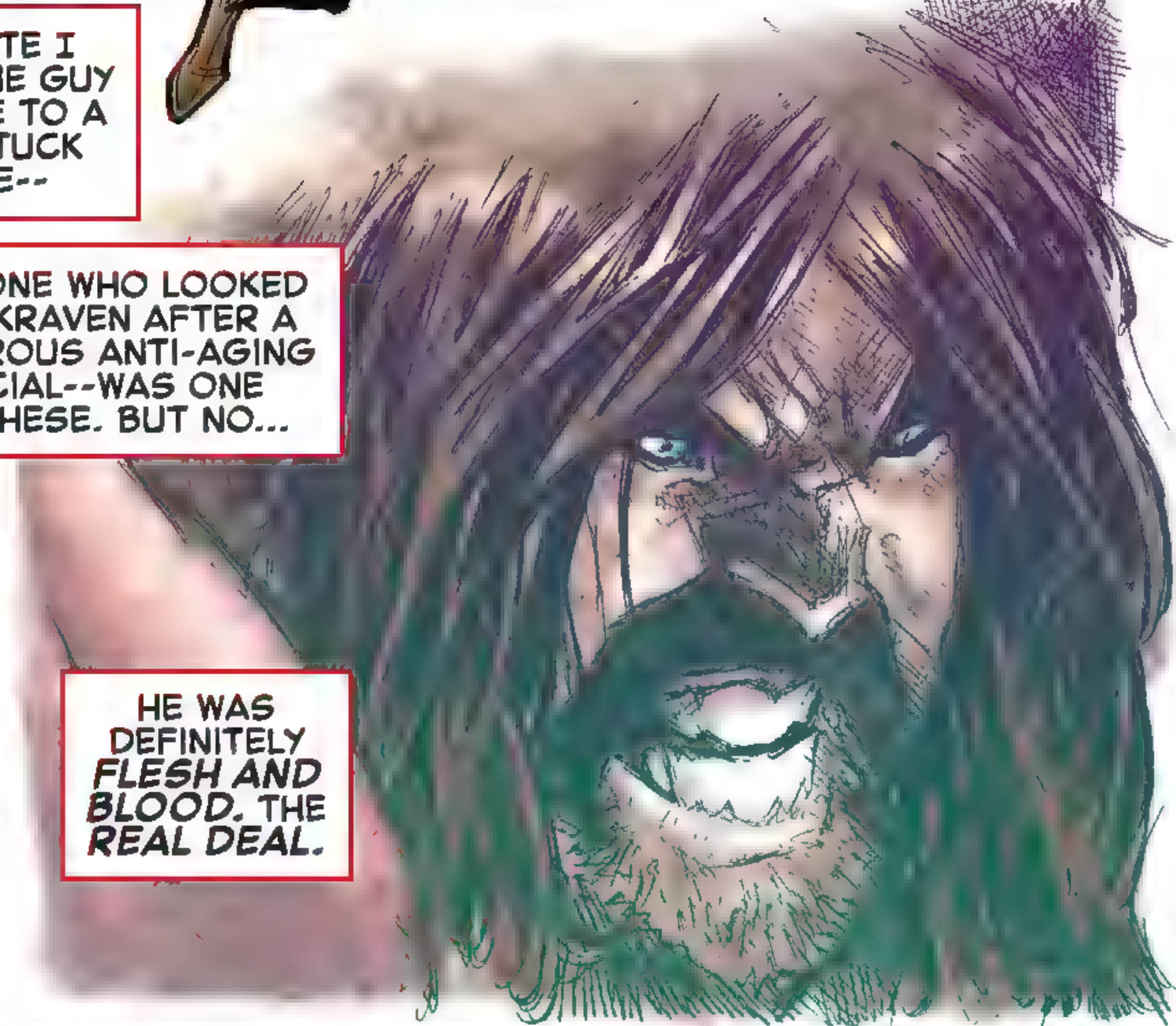
--AND
FASTER--THAN
HE EVER WAS.



FOR A MINUTE I
WONDER IF THE GUY
WHO BEAT ME TO A
PULP AND STUCK
ME IN HERE--

THE ONE WHO LOOKED
LIKE KRAVEN AFTER A
RIGOROUS ANTI-AGING
FACIAL--WAS ONE
OF THESE. BUT NO...

HE WAS
DEFINITELY
FLESH AND
BLOOD. THE
REAL DEAL.



WHICH
BEGS THE
QUESTION--

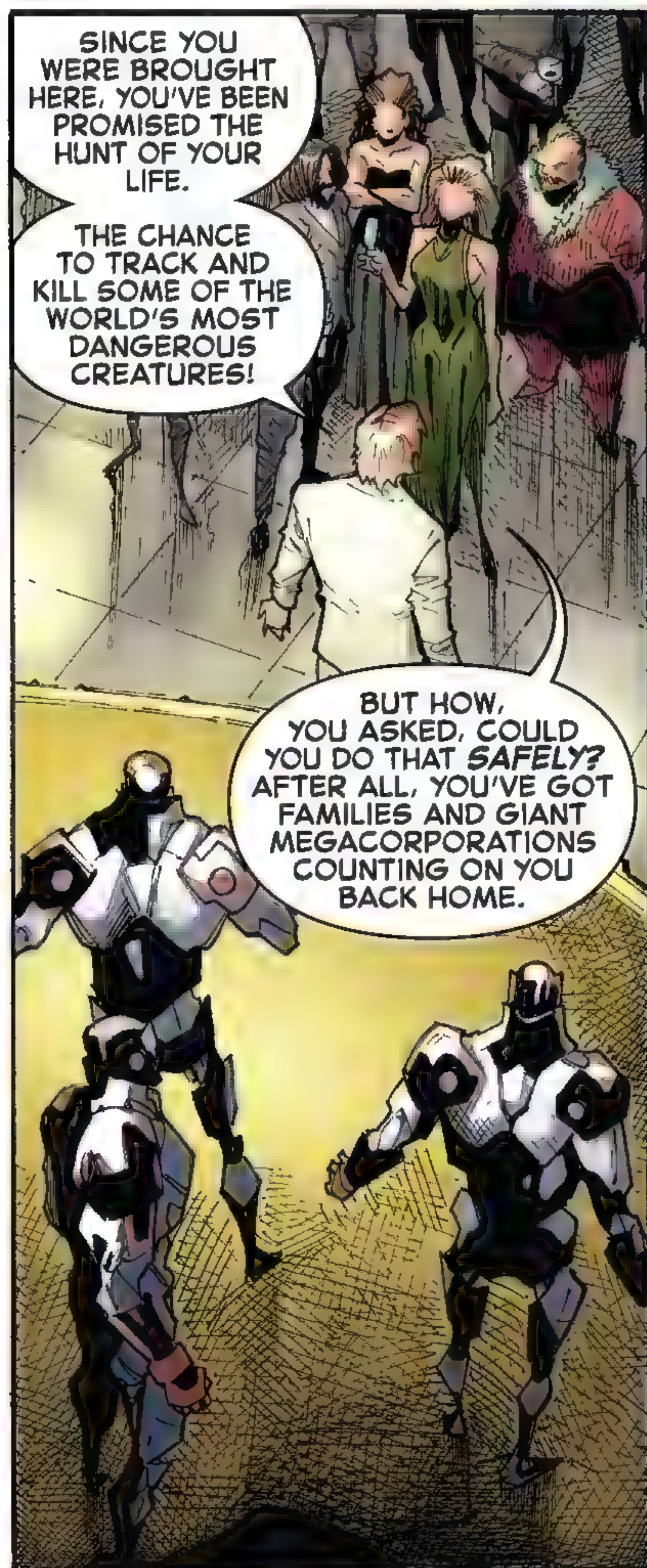


--WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?!

OKAY, GROUP TWO, STEP RIGHT ON UP. THE EARLY-BIRD SPECIAL CROWD IS ALREADY OUT IN THE FIELD, TIME FOR YOU TO MEET--

--THE HUNTERS!

THE PLAZA HOTEL.



SINCE YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE, YOU'VE BEEN PROMISED THE HUNT OF YOUR LIFE.

THE CHANCE TO TRACK AND KILL SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS CREATURES!

BUT HOW, YOU ASKED, COULD YOU DO THAT SAFELY? AFTER ALL, YOU'VE GOT FAMILIES AND GIANT MEGACORPORATIONS COUNTING ON YOU BACK HOME.



AND WHILE YOU CERTAINLY HAVE NO LACK OF ENTHUSIASM, LET'S NOT MISTAKE THAT FOR ABILITY. I MEAN, TAKE HOWIE HERE. HOWIE, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU EVEN WALKED BY A GYM?

HA! HA! HA!
HA! HA!

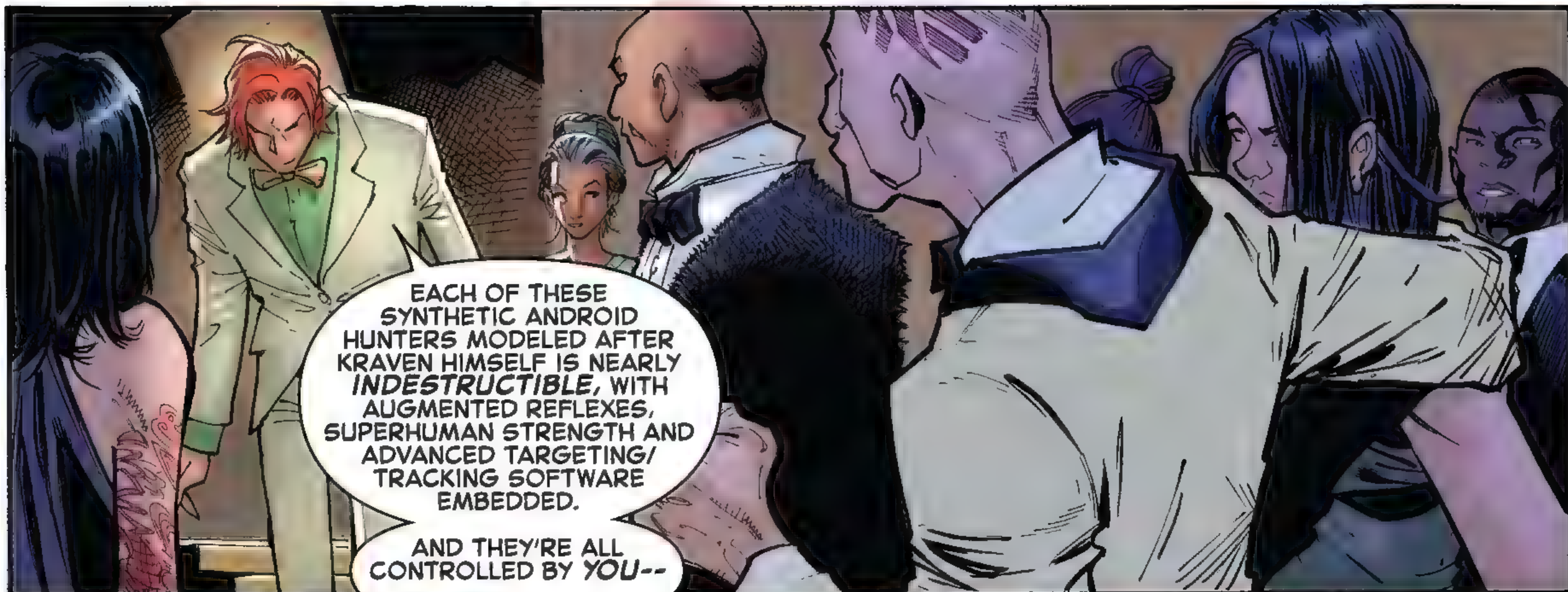


DON'T WORRY THOUGH, FOLKS. OL' ARCADE HAS THE SOLUTION. WE'RE GOING TO HELP YOU BECOME AS DEADLY AND POWERFUL AS OUR BELOVED KRAVEN THE HUNTER.

NOT THROUGH WORTHLESS WASTES OF TIME LIKE TRAINING OR EXERCISE--

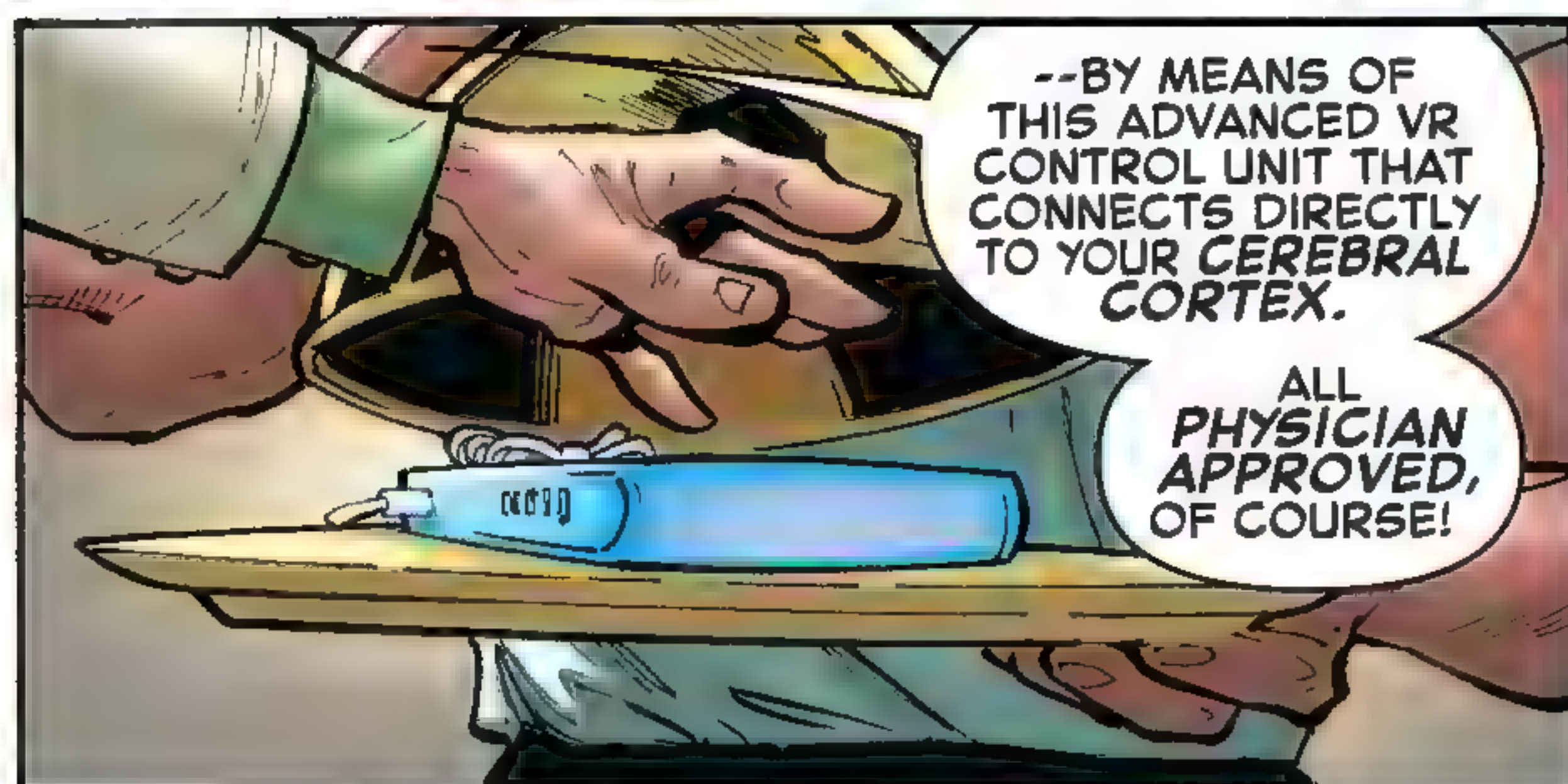


--BUT BY MAKING YOU KRAVEN THE HUNTER WITH THE FLICK OF A SWITCH!



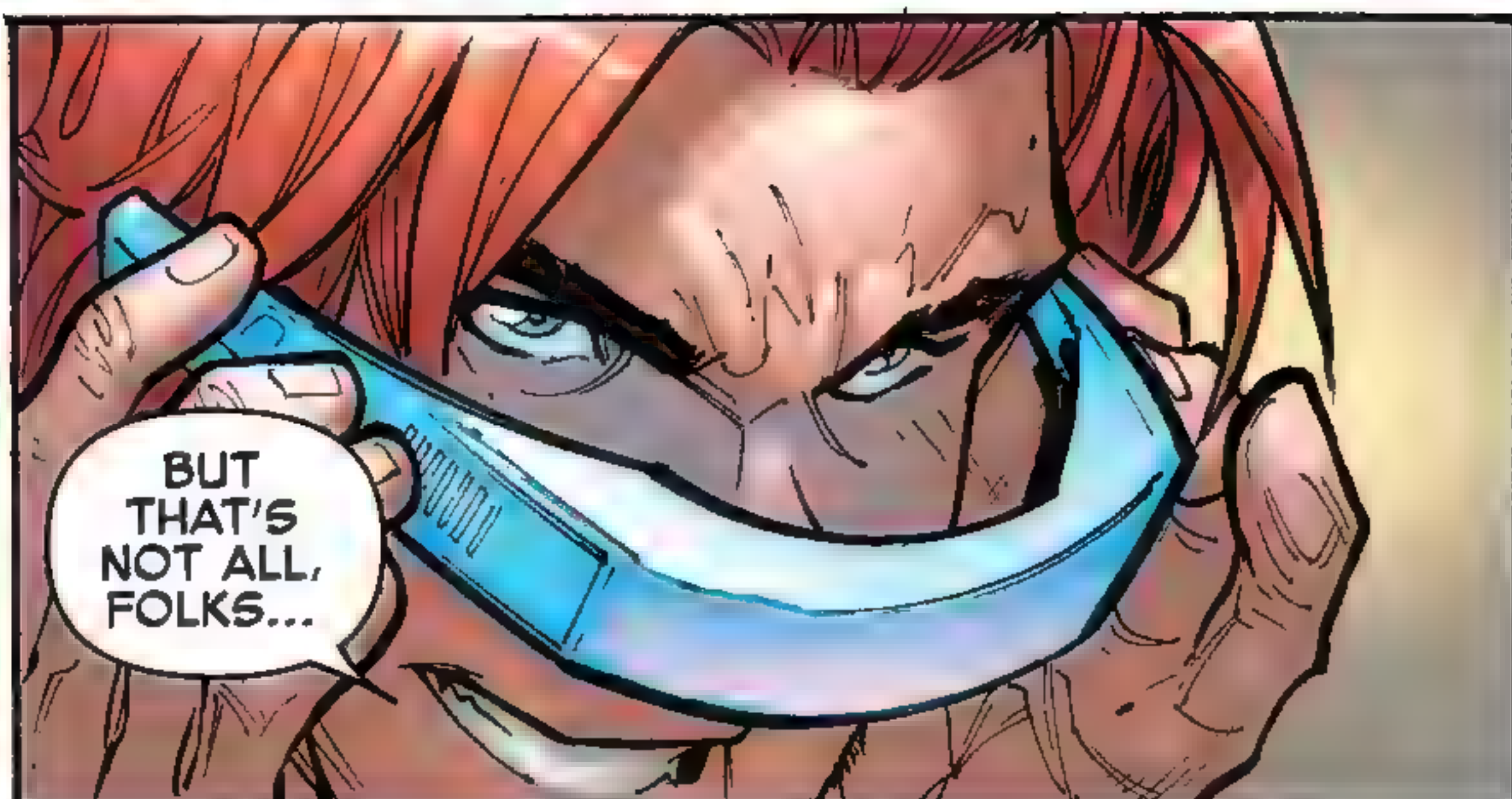
EACH OF THESE
SYNTHETIC ANDROID
HUNTERS MODELED AFTER
KRAVEN HIMSELF IS NEARLY
INDESTRUCTIBLE, WITH
AUGMENTED REFLEXES,
SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH AND
ADVANCED TARGETING/
TRACKING SOFTWARE
EMBEDDED.

AND THEY'RE ALL
CONTROLLED BY YOU--

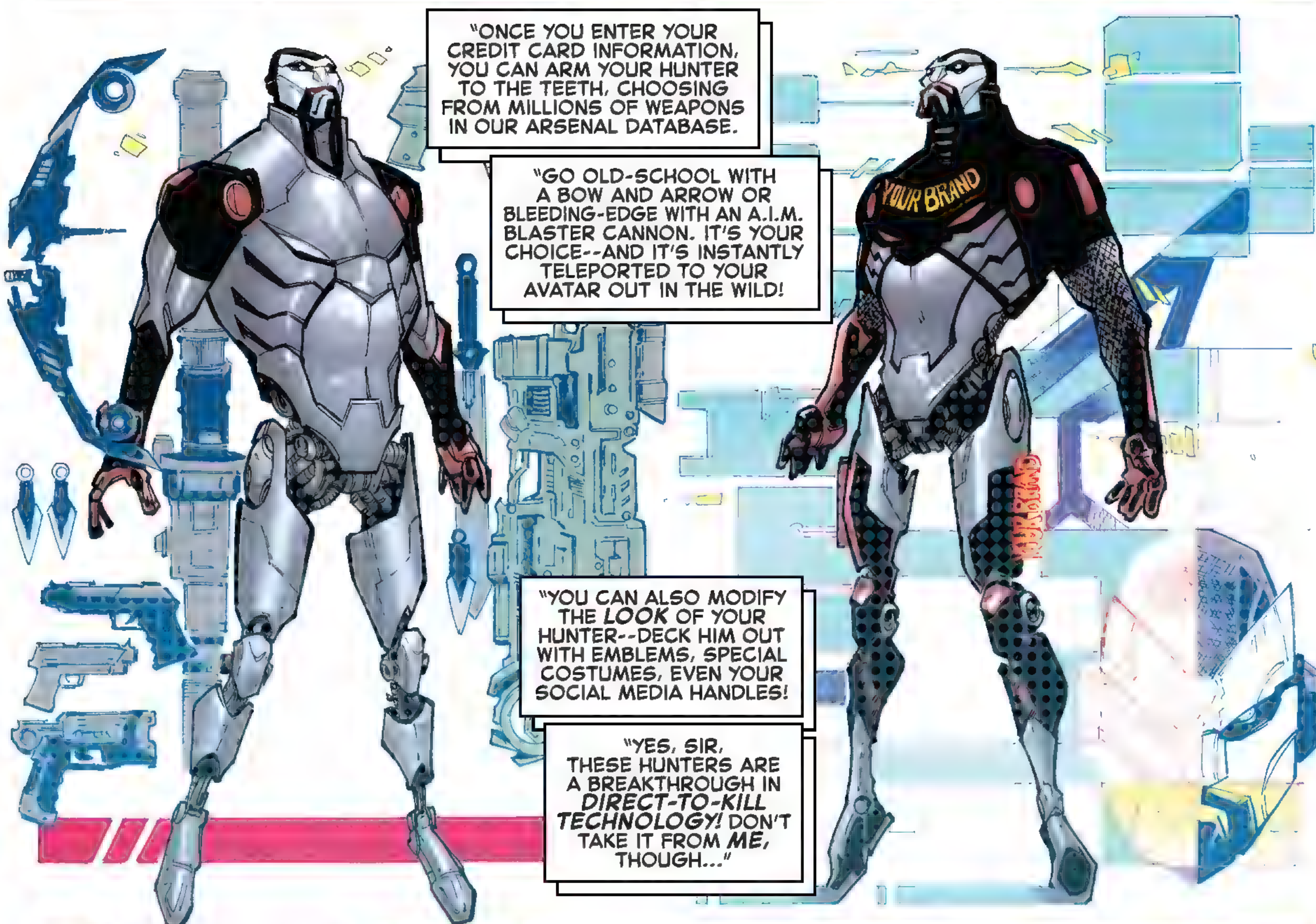


--BY MEANS OF
THIS ADVANCED VR
CONTROL UNIT THAT
CONNECTS DIRECTLY
TO YOUR **CEREBRAL**
CORTEX.

ALL
PHYSICIAN
APPROVED,
OF COURSE!



BUT
THAT'S
NOT ALL,
FOLKS...

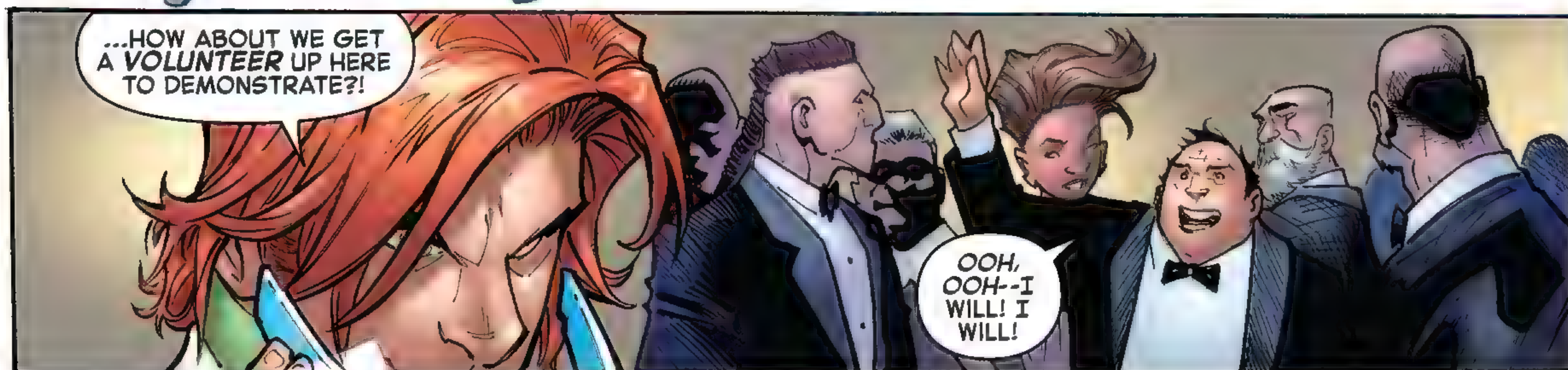


"ONCE YOU ENTER YOUR
CREDIT CARD INFORMATION,
YOU CAN ARM YOUR HUNTER
TO THE TEETH, CHOOSING
FROM MILLIONS OF WEAPONS
IN OUR ARSENAL DATABASE.

"GO OLD-SCHOOL WITH
A BOW AND ARROW OR
BLEEDING-EDGE WITH AN A.I.M.
BLASTER CANNON. IT'S YOUR
CHOICE--AND IT'S INSTANTLY
TELEPORTED TO YOUR
AVATAR OUT IN THE WILD!

"YOU CAN ALSO MODIFY
THE **LOOK** OF YOUR
HUNTER--DECK HIM OUT
WITH EMBLEMS, SPECIAL
COSTUMES, EVEN YOUR
SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES!

"YES, SIR,
THESE HUNTERS ARE
A **BREAKTHROUGH** IN
DIRECT-TO-KILL
TECHNOLOGY! DON'T
TAKE IT FROM ME,
THOUGH..."



...HOW ABOUT WE GET
A **VOLUNTEER** UP HERE
TO DEMONSTRATE?!

OOH,
OOH--I
WILL! I
WILL!

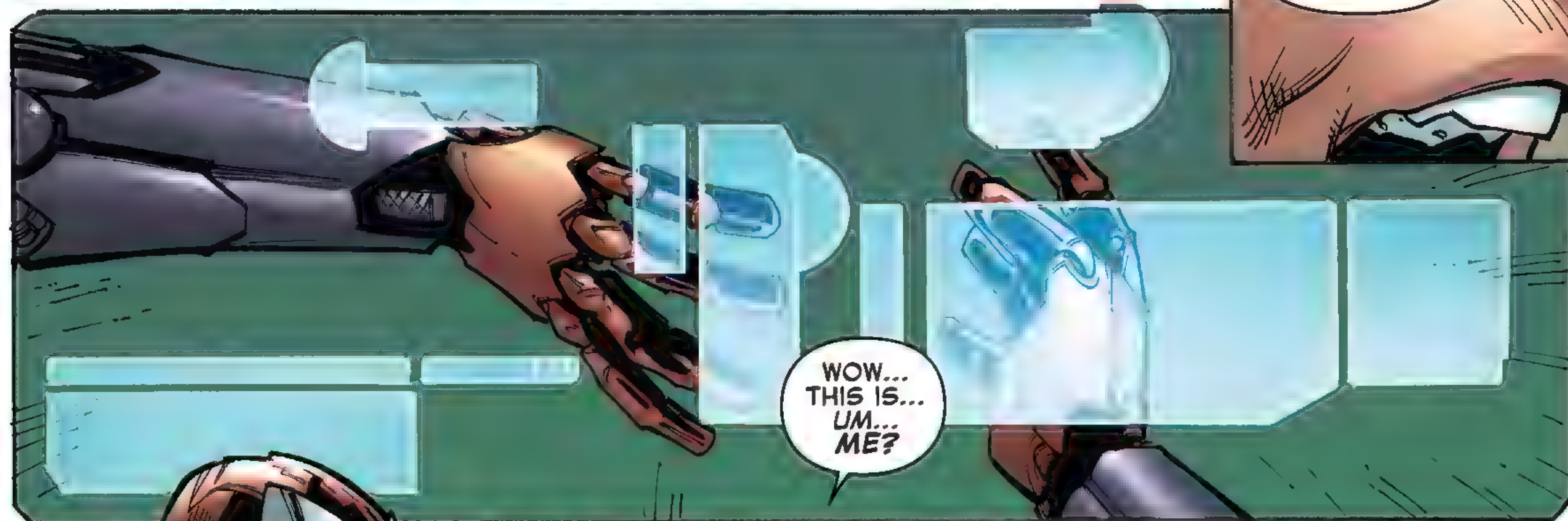


WHAT DO I DO?

RELAX, BOB. WE'LL JUST PUT THIS ON YOU--



--THEN JUST DO WHAT COMES NATURALLY.



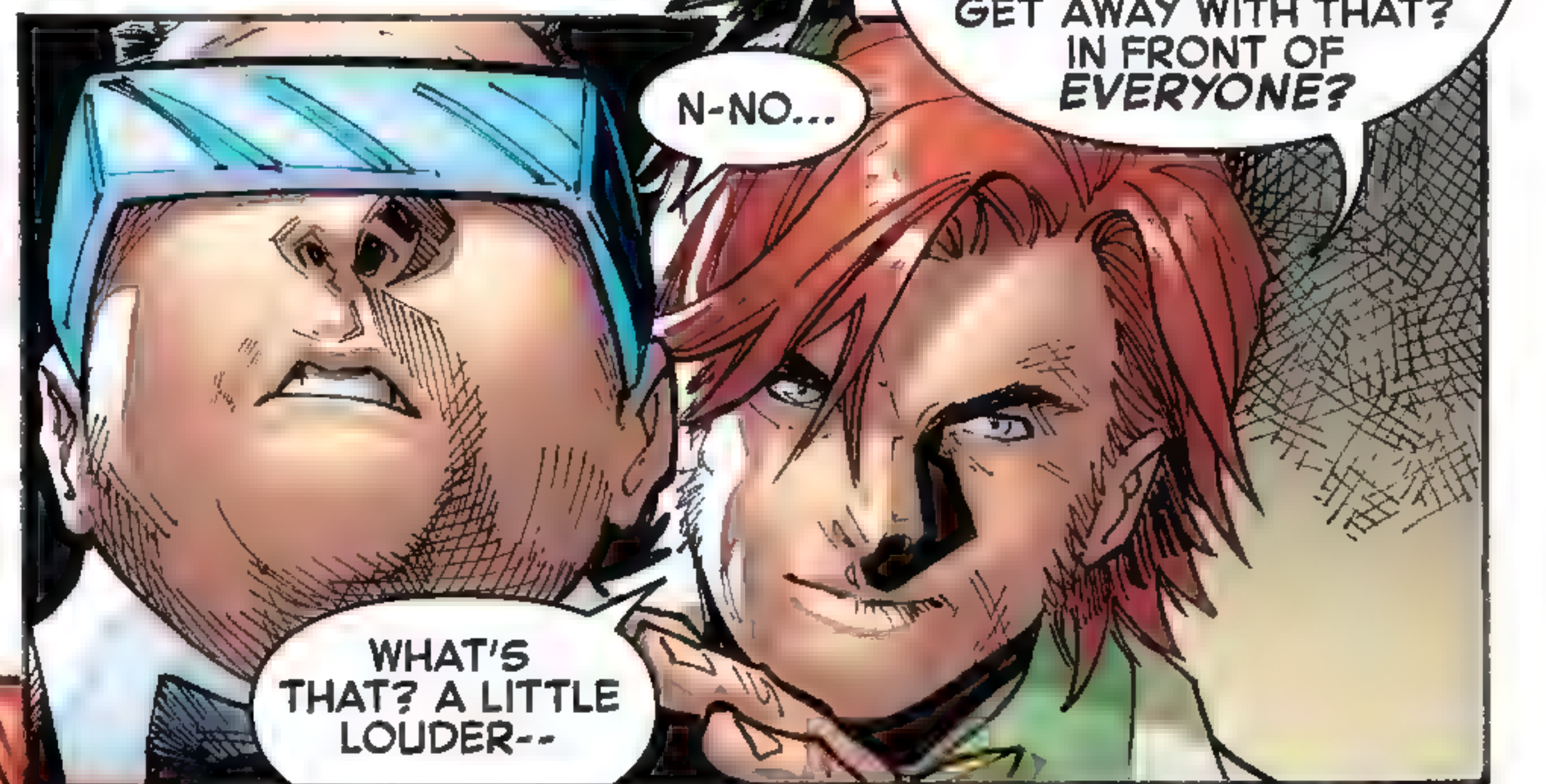
WOW... THIS IS... UM... ME?



THIS IS GREAT! LOOK HOW BIG AND STRONG I AM!

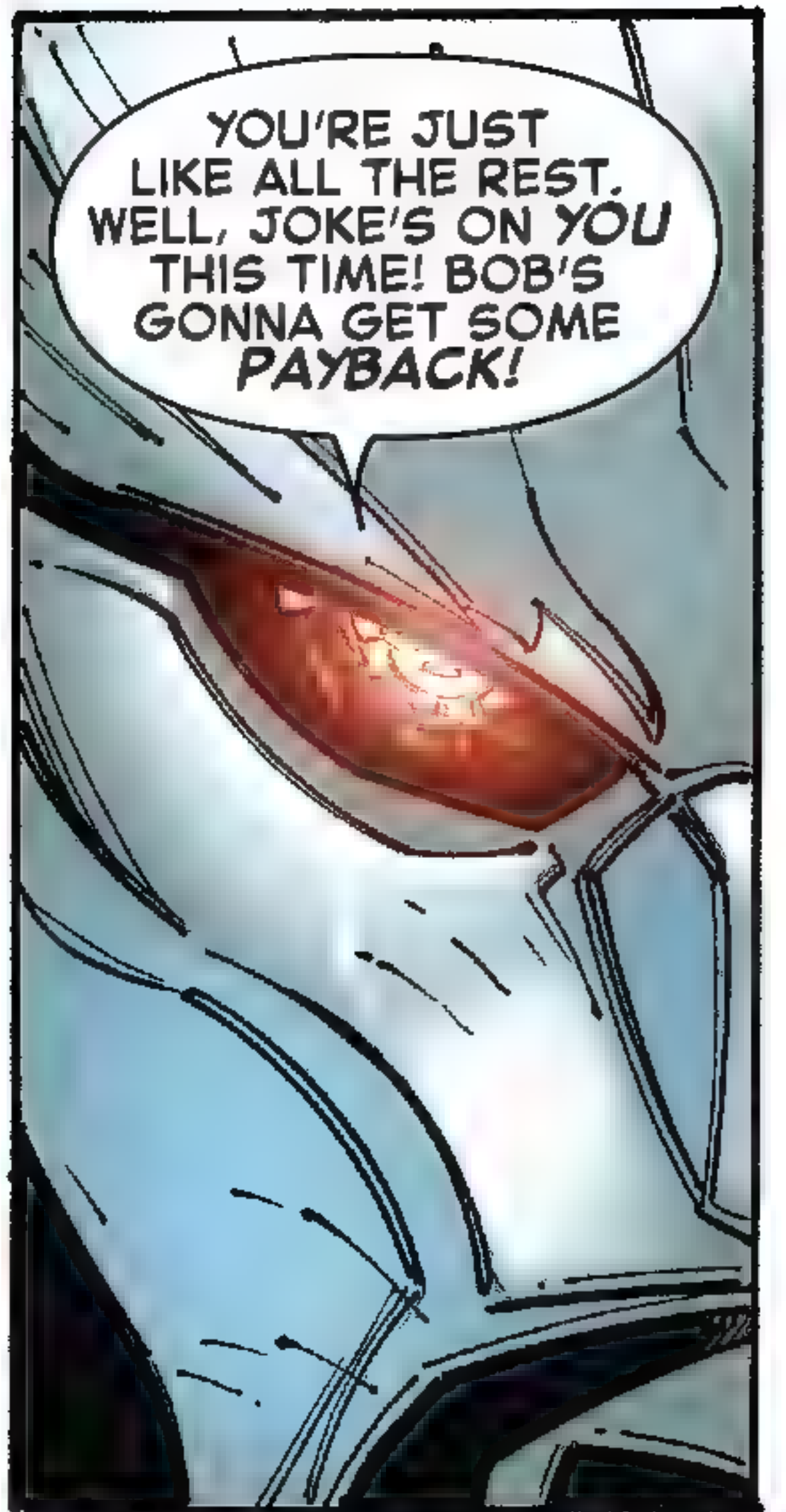
YES, WE CAN ALL SEE THAT, BOB. BUT I WONDER, ARE YOU BIG AND STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT--

--THE DEADLY IGUANA?





YEAH, TAKE THAT! YOU THINK I'M A JOKE?! YOU WANNA MAKE FUN OF ME?!



YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL THE REST. WELL, JOKE'S ON YOU THIS TIME! BOB'S GONNA GET SOME PAYBACK!



THIS IS FOR ALWAYS PASSING ME UP FOR THAT PROMOTION!



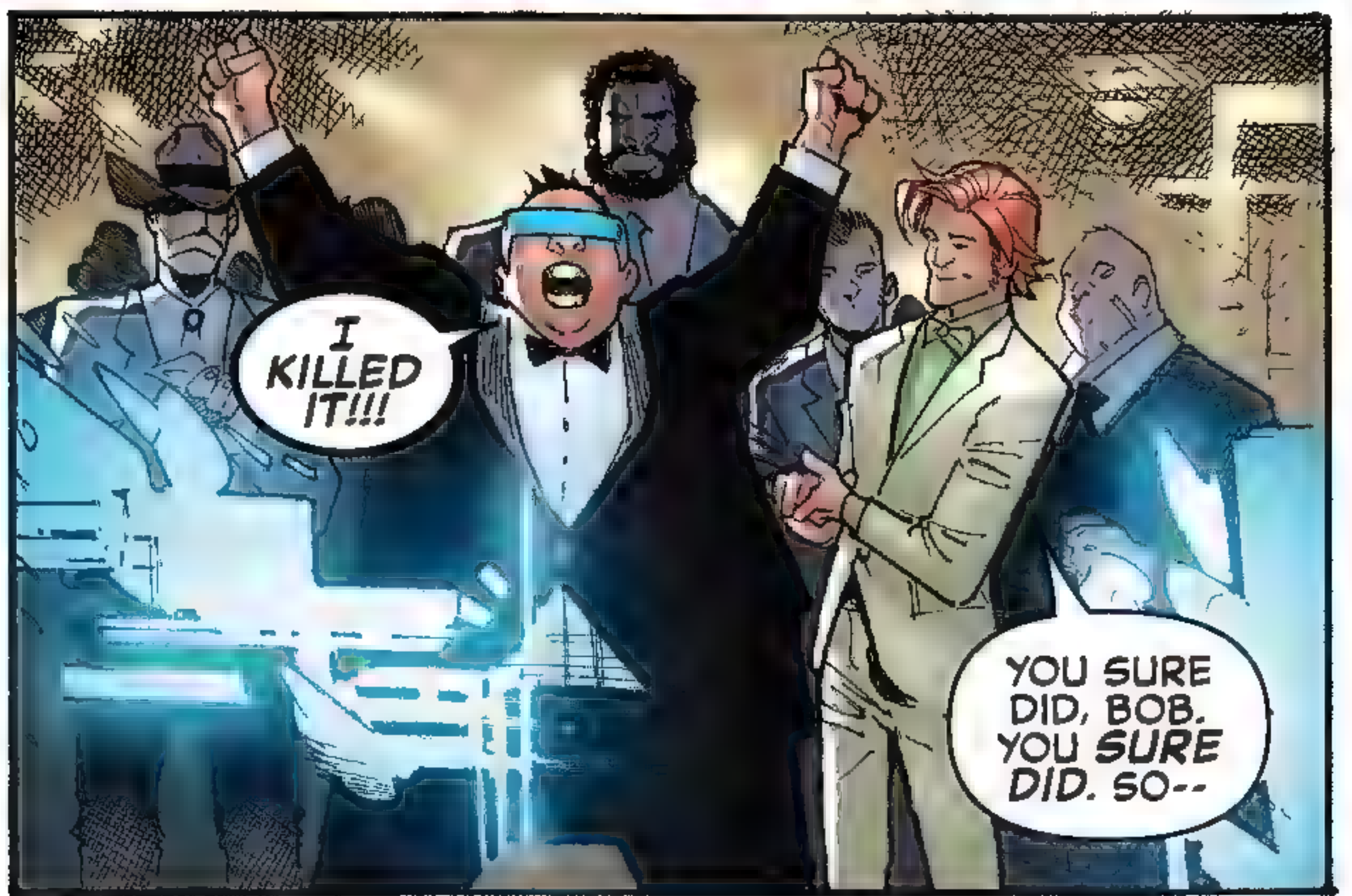
THIS IS FOR CLEANING ME OUT IN THE DIVORCE! AND THIS--



--THIS IS FOR NOT DATING ME IN HIGH SCHOOL!



I--I KILLED THAT THING. I--I KILLED IT...



I KILLED IT!!!

YOU SURE DID, BOB. YOU SURE DID. SO--



--WHO WANTS TO BE NEXT?



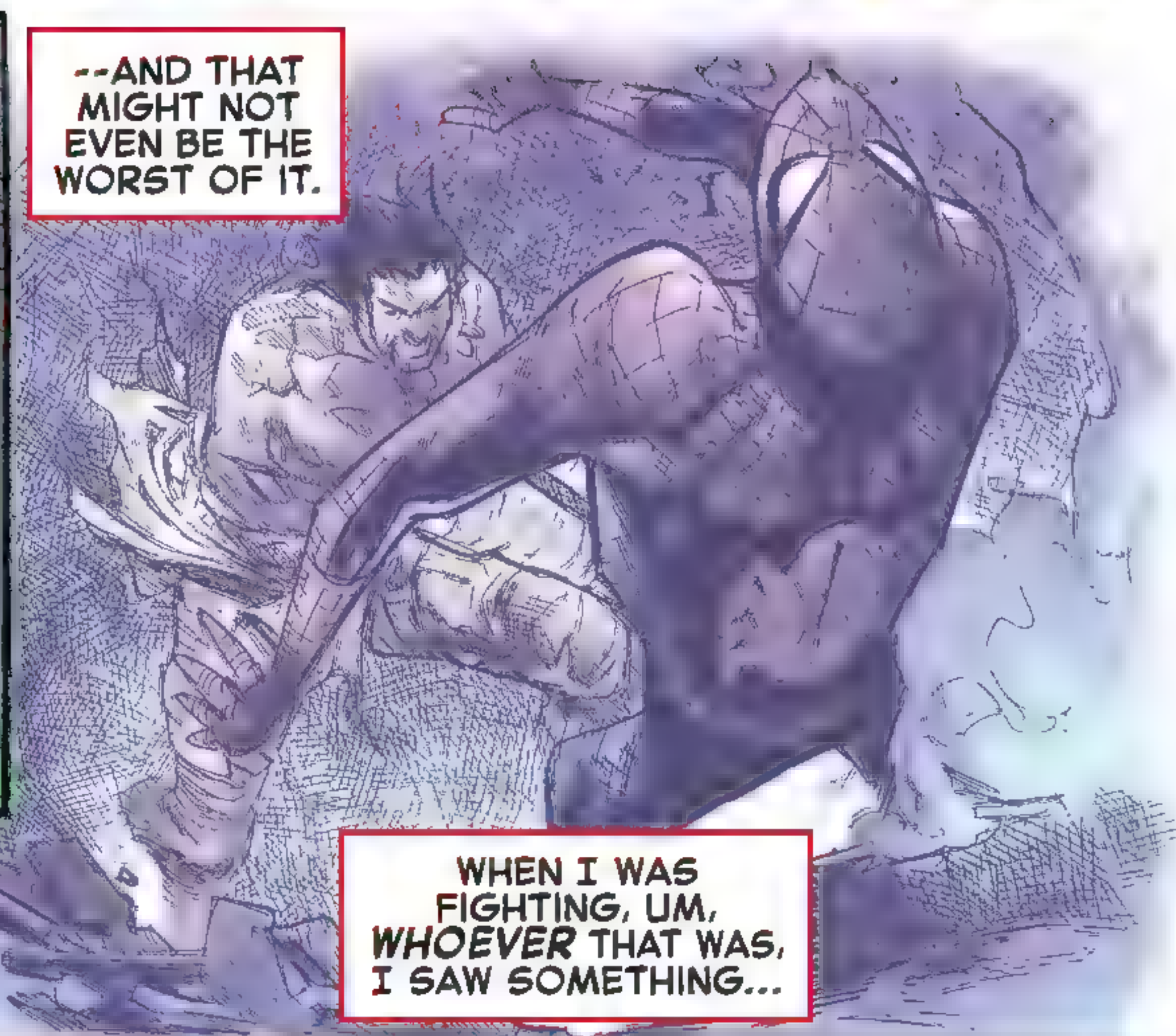
SO YEAH, IT'S LOOKING A LITTLE DIRE. THESE THINGS ARE EVERYWHERE, AND THEY ARE NOT HOLDING BACK.

GOTTA GET CLEAR OF THE CHAOS AND FIND MY BEARINGS. NO TIME TO WASTE. AFTER ALL--

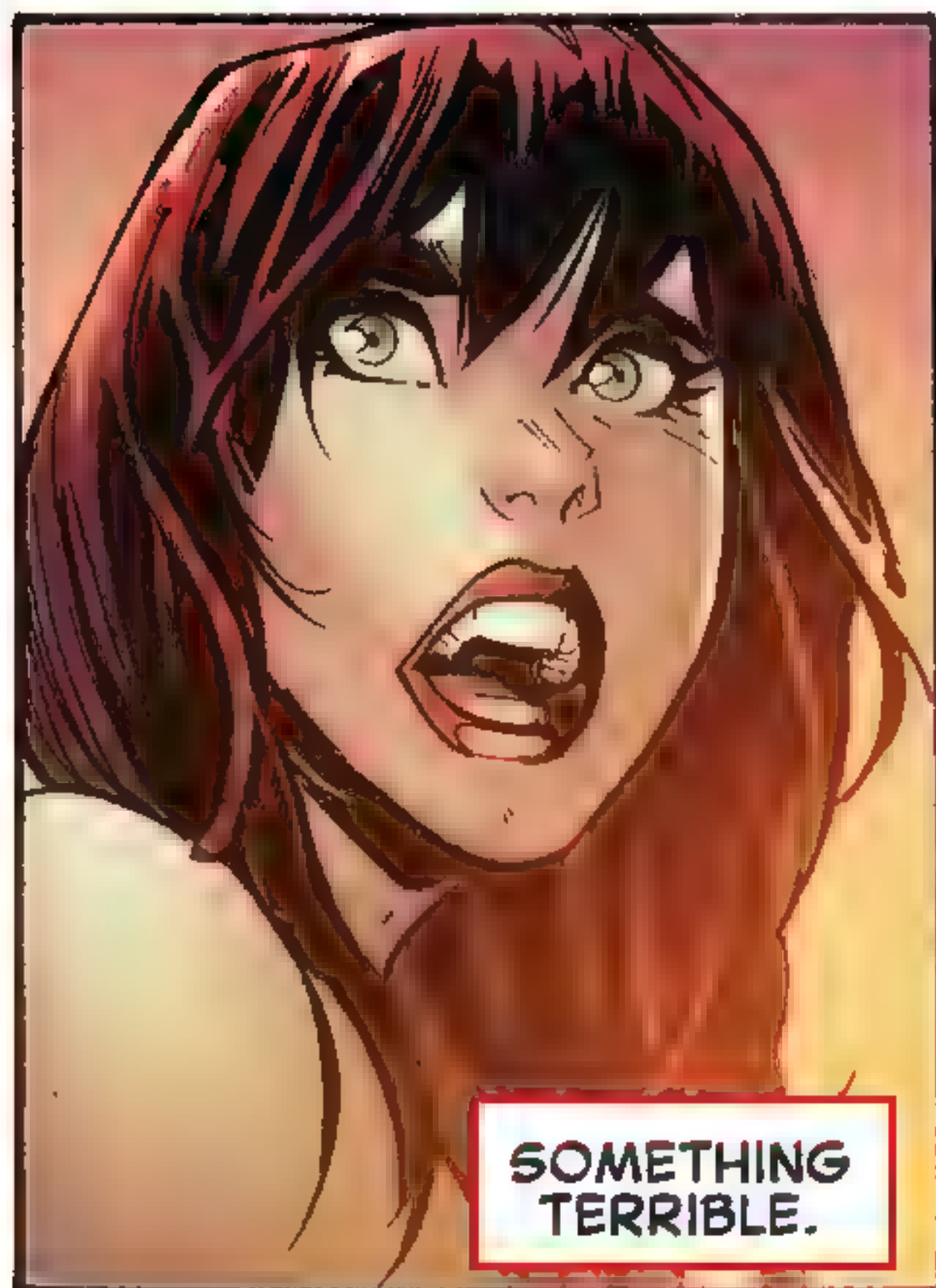


--PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT ARE IN DANGER. BLACK CAT AND BILLY CONNORS ARE TRAPPED IN HERE SOMEWHERE--

--AND THAT MIGHT NOT EVEN BE THE WORST OF IT.



WHEN I WAS FIGHTING, UM, WHOEVER THAT WAS, I SAW SOMETHING...



SOMETHING TERRIBLE.



MAYBE IT WAS A DREAM. A DRUG-INDUCED HALLUCINATION.

BUT I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING IT WAS MORE THAN THAT. EVERY THOUGHT IN MY BRAIN, EVERY BONE IN MY BODY IS SCREAMING THE SAME THING--



--MJ IS IN DANGER!

...OH, I WAS RECKLESS...

...ONCE I WAS BREATHLESS...

SURE, I GET HOW THIS LOOKS.



HOW INSENSITIVE, RIGHT?

MARY JANE WATSON, DANCING HER LITTLE HEART OUT WHILE HER BOYFRIEND RACES OUT INTO THE NIGHT TO RESCUE SOME POOR KID AND DEAL WITH--



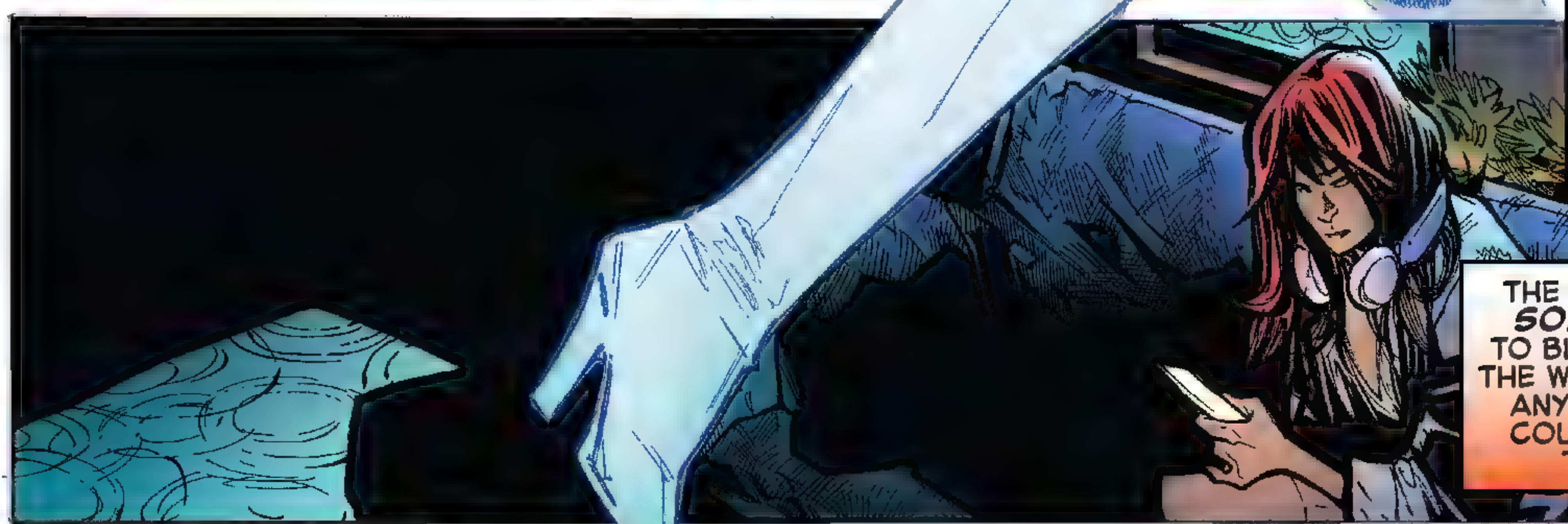
--WELL, GOD-KNOWS-WHAT.

BUT HERE'S THE THING--WE ALL HAVE OUR COPING MECHANISMS. AND THROUGH A LOT OF TRIAL AND ERROR, I'VE LEARNED THIS IS MINE. IN FACT--



--I USED TO TAKE IT EVEN FURTHER. I'D GO OUT TO SOME CLUB, LET SOME POOR SUCKER BUY ME DRINKS, AND SPEND ALL NIGHT OUT ON THE DANCE FLOOR.

THESE DAYS?



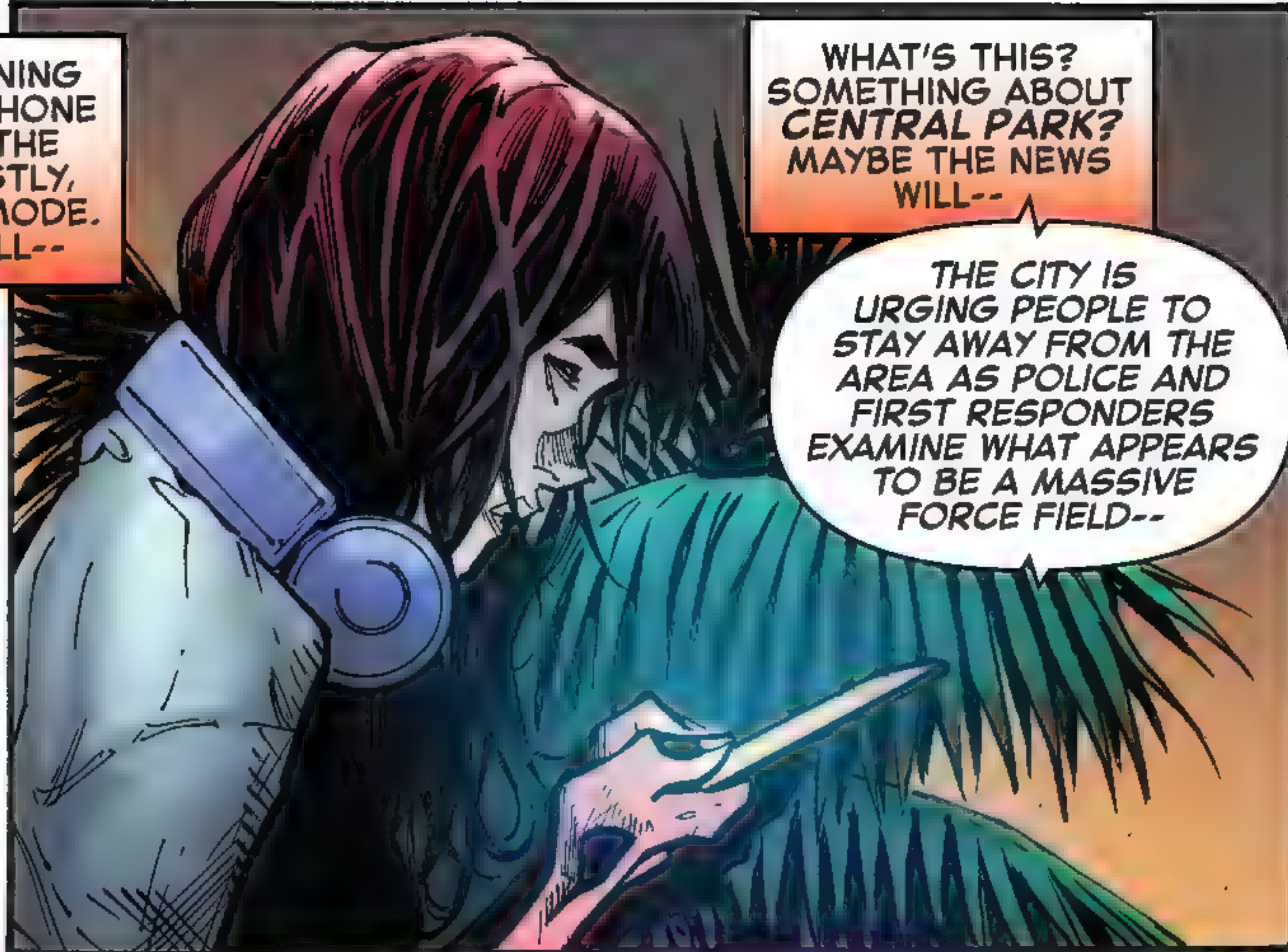
I'LL SETTLE FOR SOME DECENT HEADPHONES AND SOME SPOTIFY. CALL IT **PERSONAL GROWTH**.

THE POINT OF IT IS TO DO SOMETHING, ANYTHING TO BLOCK OUT THE REST OF THE WORLD. TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING BESIDES WHAT COULD BE HAPPENING TO THE MAN I LOVE--



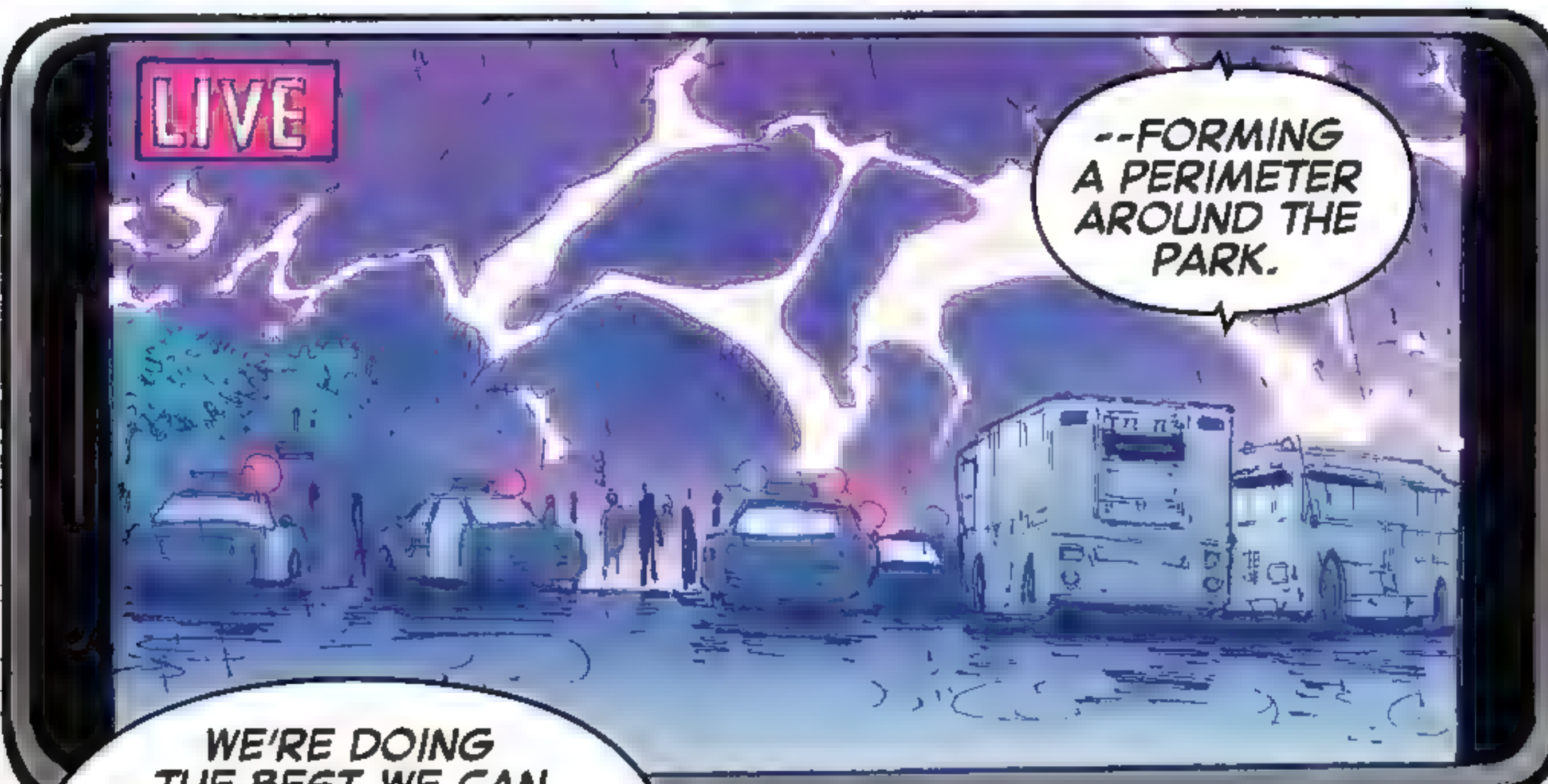
--NOT THAT
IT EVER,
EVER WORKS
ANYWAY.

CITYWIDE WARNING
ALERT ON MY PHONE
INTERRUPTS THE
MUSIC. HONESTLY,
MJ, AIRPLANE MODE.
MIGHT AS WELL--



WHAT'S THIS?
SOMETHING ABOUT
CENTRAL PARK?
MAYBE THE NEWS
WILL--

THE CITY IS
URGING PEOPLE TO
STAY AWAY FROM THE
AREA AS POLICE AND
FIRST RESPONDERS
EXAMINE WHAT APPEARS
TO BE A MASSIVE
FORCE FIELD--



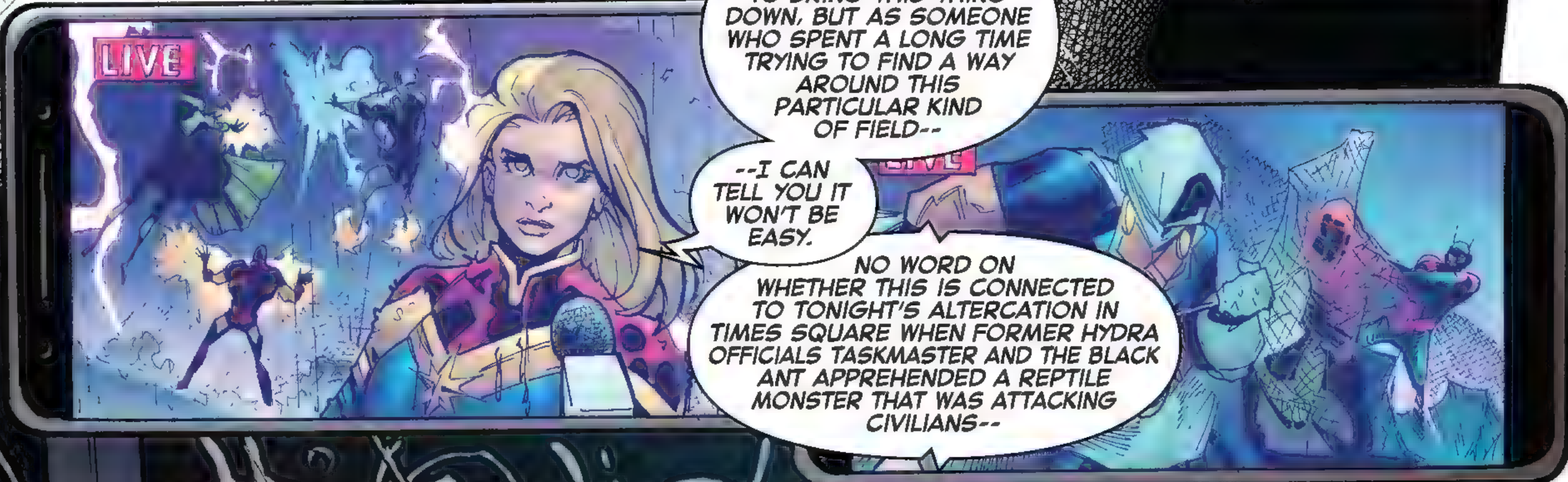
LIVE

--FORMING
A PERIMETER
AROUND THE
PARK.

WE'RE DOING
THE BEST WE CAN
TO BRING THIS THING
DOWN, BUT AS SOMEONE
WHO SPENT A LONG TIME
TRYING TO FIND A WAY
AROUND THIS
PARTICULAR KIND
OF FIELD--

--I CAN
TELL YOU IT
WON'T BE
EASY.

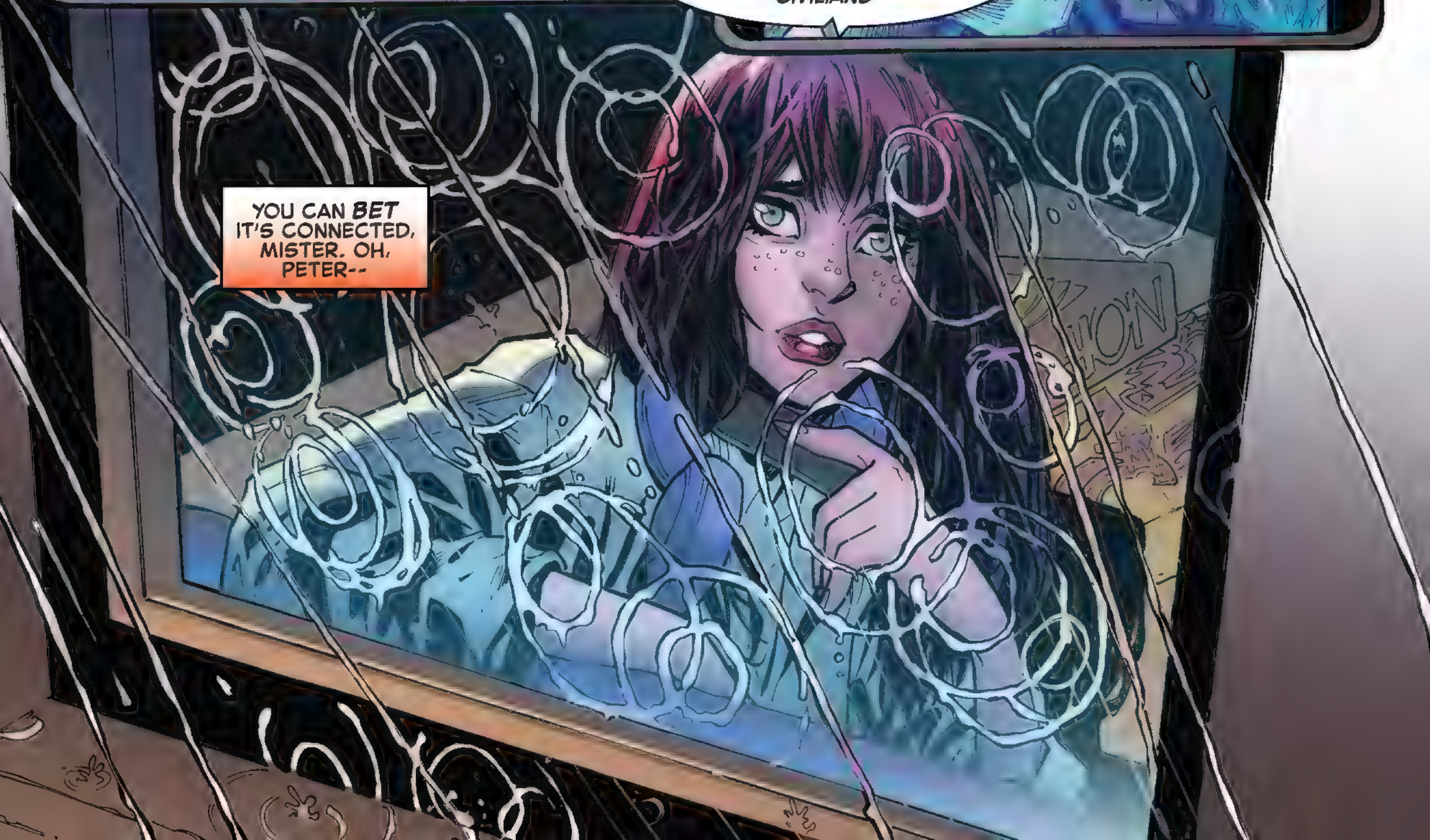
NO WORD ON
WHETHER THIS IS CONNECTED
TO TONIGHT'S ALTERCATION IN
TIMES SQUARE WHEN FORMER HYDRA
OFFICIALS TASKMASTER AND THE BLACK
ANT APPREHENDED A REPTILE
MONSTER THAT WAS ATTACKING
CIVILIANS--



LIVE

LIVE

YOU CAN **BET**
IT'S CONNECTED,
MISTER. OH,
PETER--





WHAT DID I
GET MYSELF INTO
THIS TIME?

AND WHILE I'VE BEEN
IN MY FAIR SHARE OF
JAMS BEFORE--



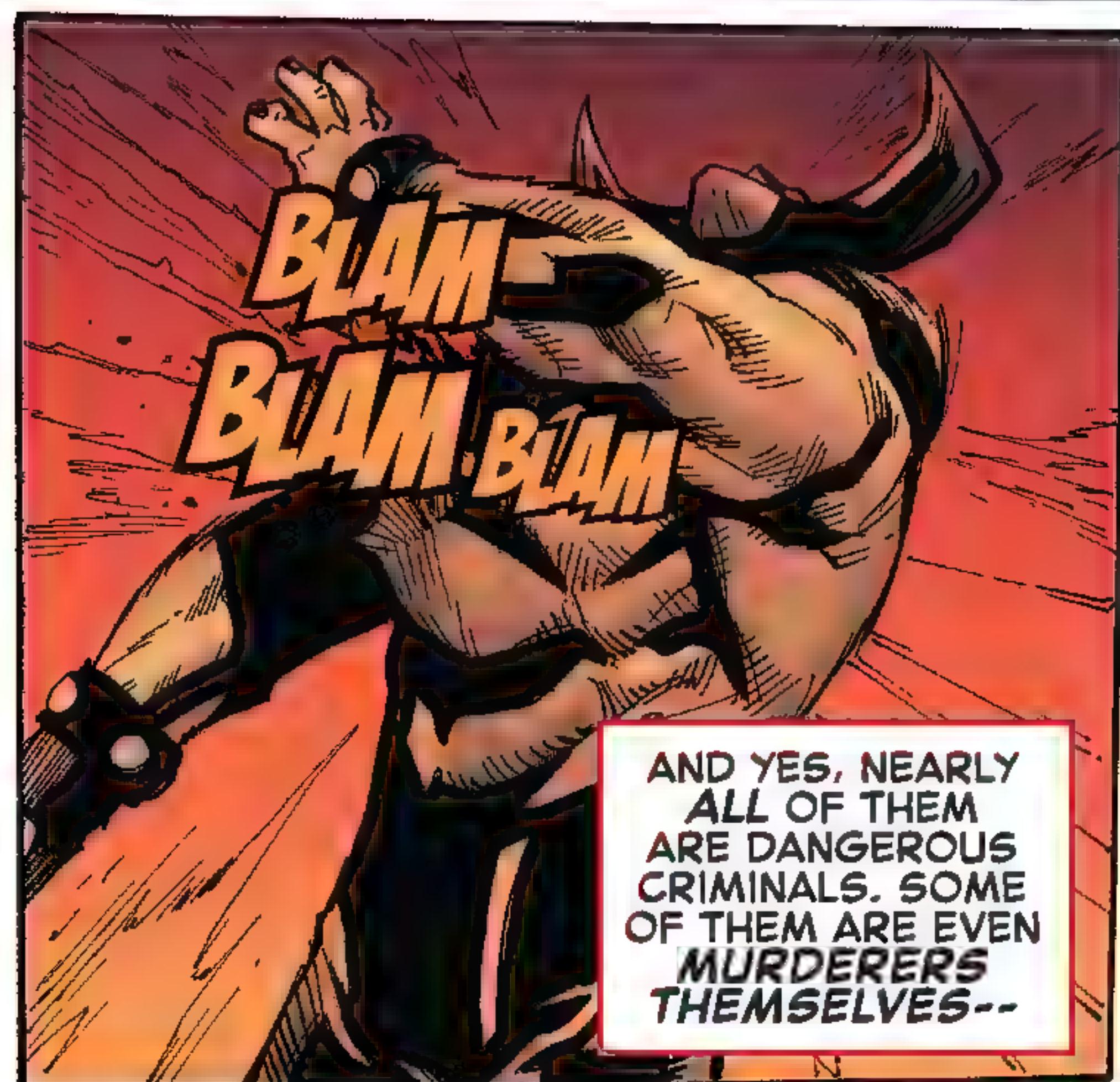
--THIS ONE'S
TAKEN AN
ESPECIALLY
DEADLY TURN.

SHUNK



ALL AROUND ME,
THEY KEEP FALLING.
GETTING MOWED
DOWN BY THESE...
HUNTERS.

THWAP



BLAM
BLAM-BLAM

AND YES, NEARLY
ALL OF THEM
ARE DANGEROUS
CRIMINALS. SOME
OF THEM ARE EVEN
MURDERERS
THEMSELVES--



--BUT THAT DOESN'T
MEAN THEY DESERVE
TO DIE. GOTTA DO
SOMETHING.

I MAY NOT BE
ABLE TO SAVE
THEM ALL--



--BUT THAT
DOESN'T MEAN
I CAN'T TRY.

I'VE TOLD
YOU BEFORE,
GIBBON--

--ALWAYS
LOOK BOTH WAYS
BEFORE CROSSING
THE HUNTER KILLER
ROBOT CLONE
THINGS!



TH-THANKS, SPIDER-MAN--

OOF!

SORRY. AND HEY, DON'T MENTION IT. ANYTHING FOR SOMEONE WHO'S ONLY TRIED TO KILL ME ONCE.

COME WITH ME, I THINK I KNOW A WAY OUT OF HERE--

DON'T BE A FOOL, GIBBON--

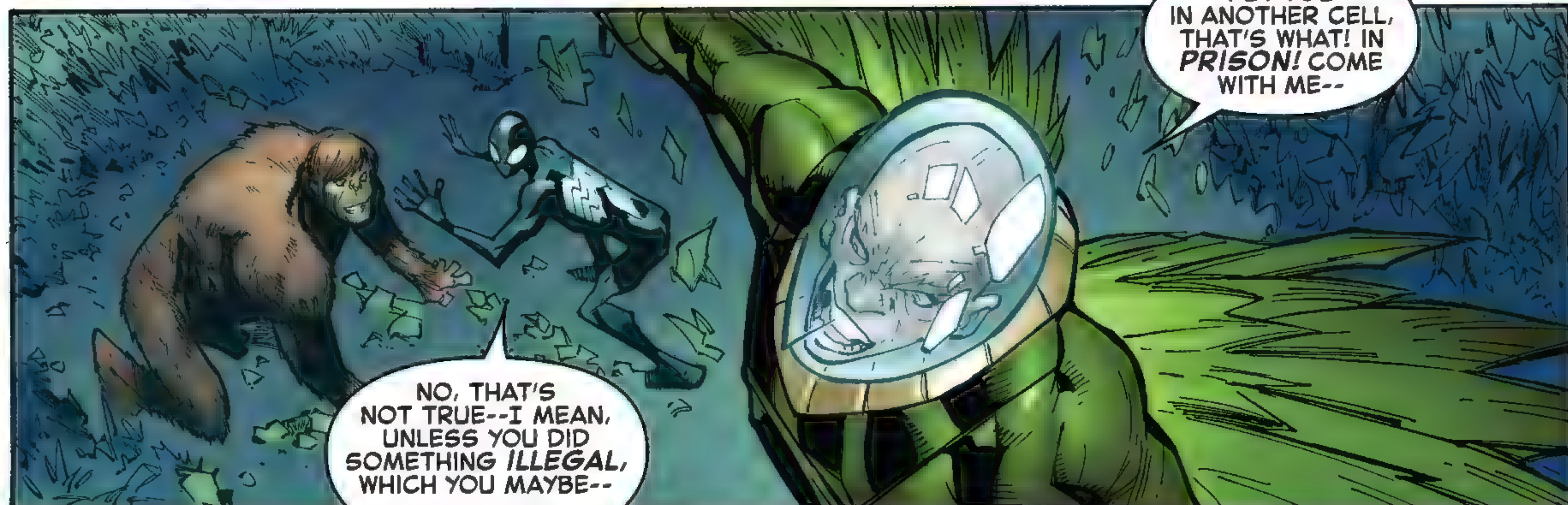


YOU CAN'T TRUST A DO-GOODER LIKE HIM! HE'S THE ENEMY, REMEMBER?

HEY, I RESENT THAT, VULTURE!

THE **TRUST** PART, NOT THE **DO-GOODER** PART!

BESIDES, WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'D DO TO YOU IF HE DID GET YOU OUT OF HERE?



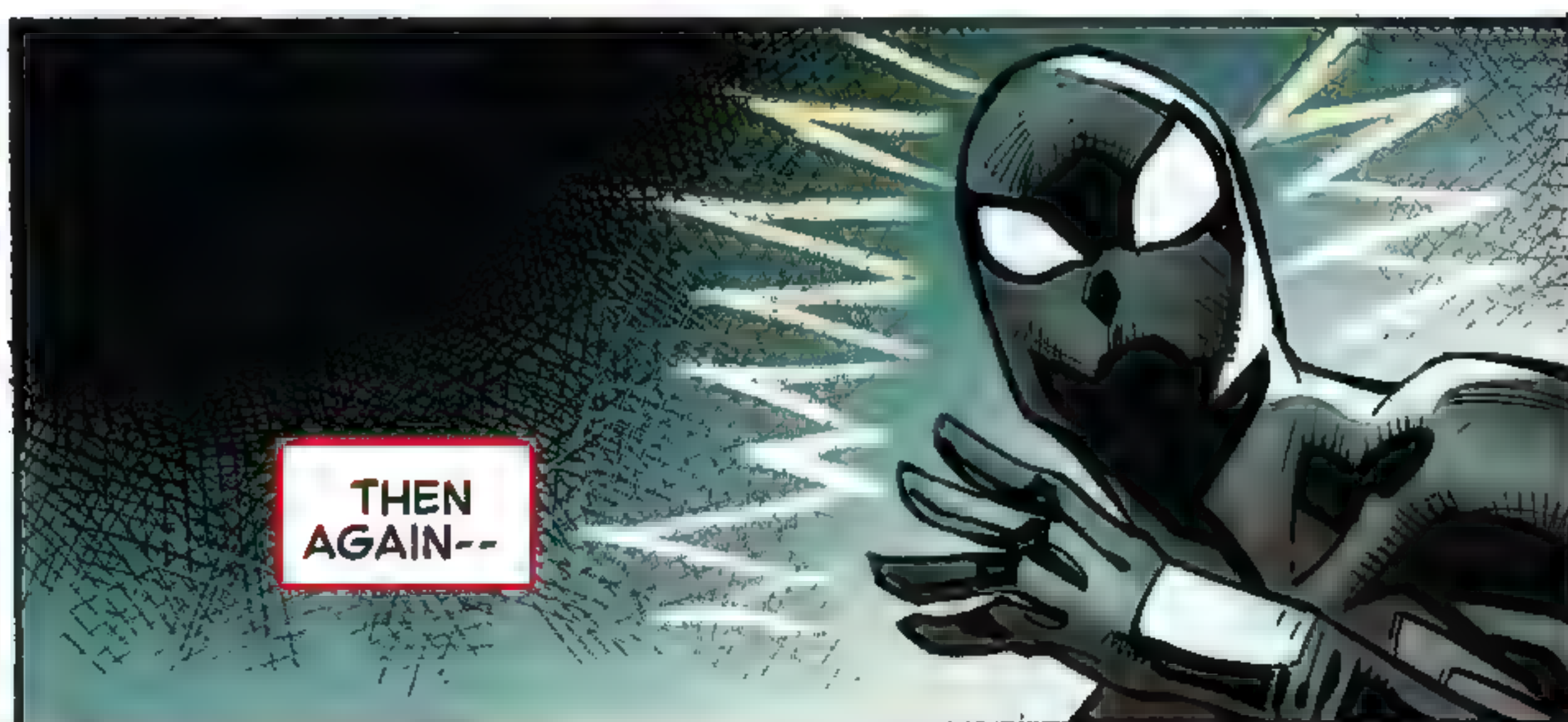
PUT YOU IN ANOTHER CELL, THAT'S WHAT! IN **PRISON!** COME WITH ME--

NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE--I MEAN, UNLESS YOU DID SOMETHING **ILLEGAL**, WHICH YOU MAYBE--

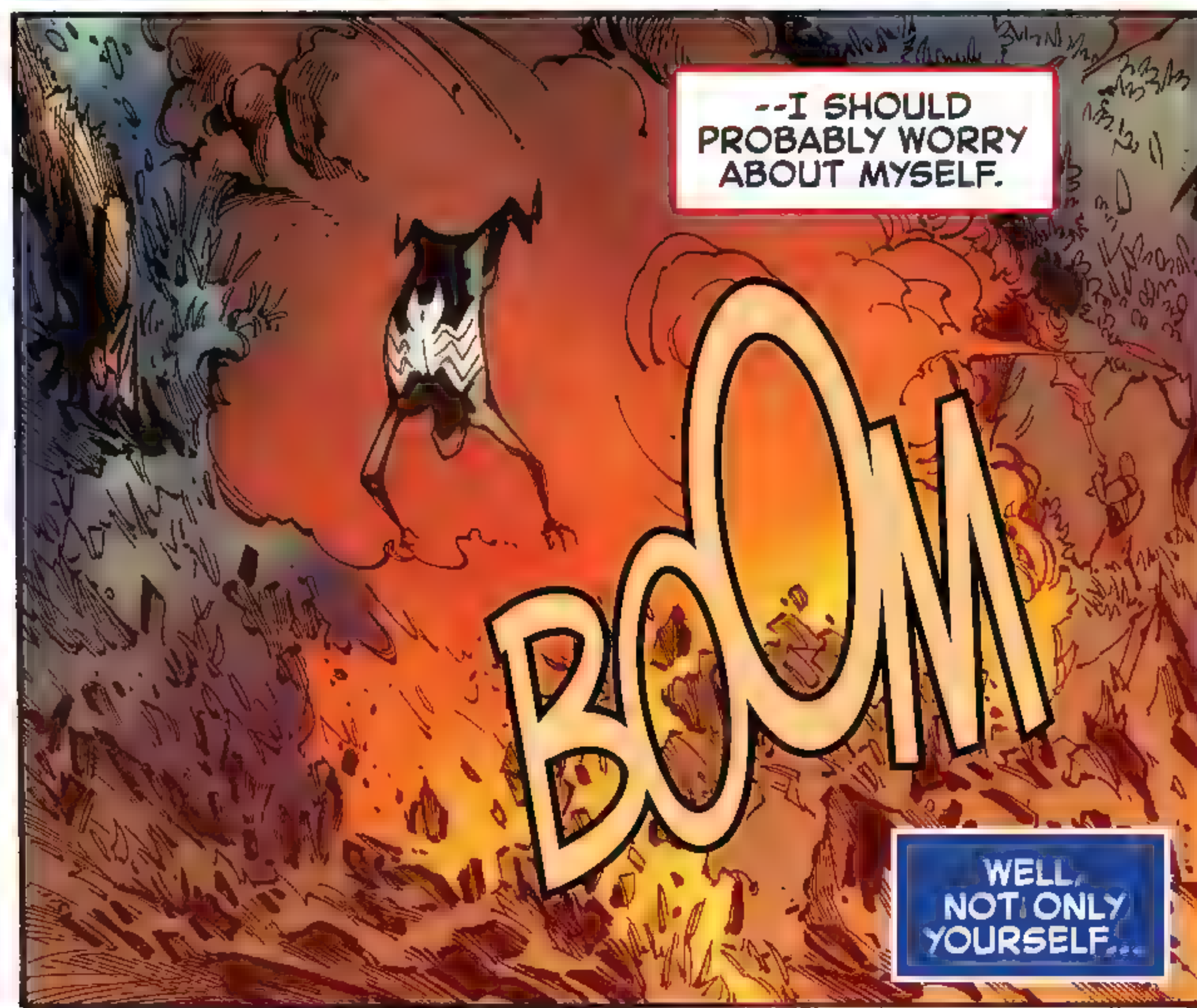


GIBBON, WAIT!

SHOULD'VE KNOWN. I MIGHT BE TRYING TO HELP, BUT NO WAY ARE MOST OF THESE GUYS GONNA BELIEVE ME.



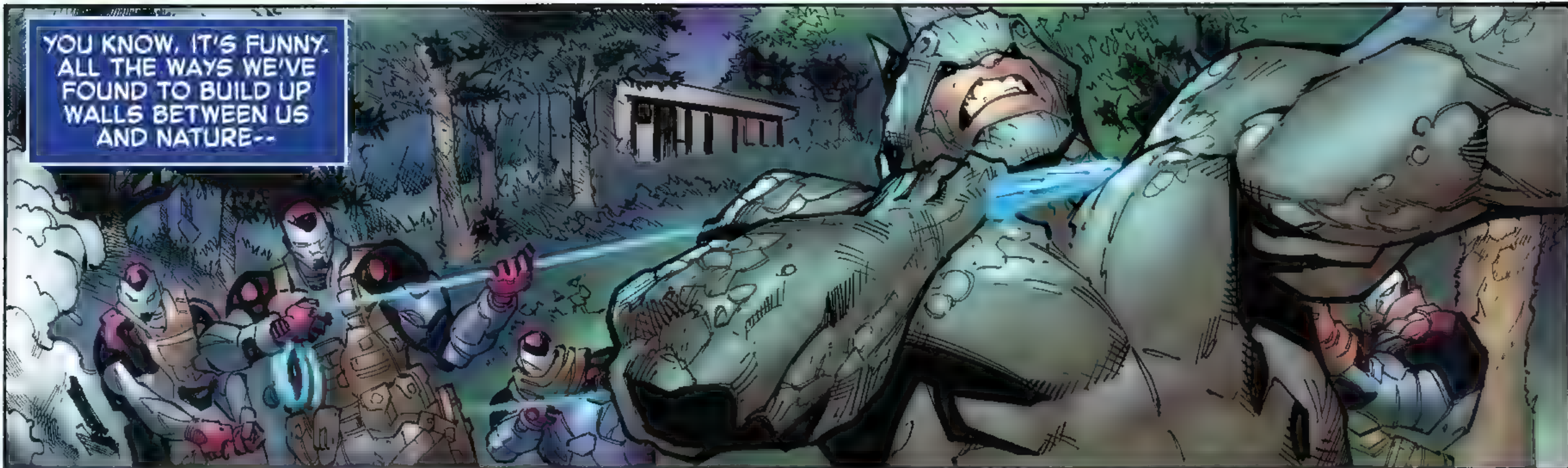
THEN AGAIN--



--I SHOULD PROBABLY WORRY ABOUT MYSELF.

BOOM

WELL, NOT ONLY YOURSELF..



YOU KNOW, IT'S FUNNY.
ALL THE WAYS WE'VE
FOUND TO BUILD UP
WALLS BETWEEN US
AND NATURE--



--THE LAWS AND
THE LANGUAGES,
THE CULTURES
AND THE IDEAS--



--AND YET NATURE
ALWAYS FINDS A
WAY TO RE-ASSERT
ITSELF.



IT HIDES INSIDE ALL OF US, UNTIL
SOMEONE STRIKES THE RIGHT MATCH--

--AND THE LIGHT SHOWS
US WHO WE REALLY ARE.
AGAIN, HUNTERS--



--AND
HUNTED.

NOT
GONNA LIE--
I'M GONNA
MISS 'EM.

I MEAN,
SURE, MOST OF
THEM ARE **HOMICIDAL
MANIACS**, BUT THERE'RE
ALSO SOME REALLY
GOOD LISTENERS
IN THE BUNCH.

YEP.



AH, WELL. I GUESS ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO DO IS SPEND THE MONEY. WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH YOUR CUT? TIMESHARE? TESLA DEPOSIT? COLLEGE FUND FOR YOUR SOMEDAY SKULL-BABY?

CAN'T SAY I'VE GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT.



SERIOUSLY? C'MON, TASKY-- A PAYDAY LIKE THIS DOESN'T COME AROUND OFTEN. WE SHOULD CELEBRATE! WE JUST CAPTURED, LIKE, THE ENTIRE ANIMAL-HYBRID KINGDOM--

NOT ALL OF IT.

HM?

ANTS ARE ANIMALS, TOO.



SORRY, LITTLE BUDDY. JUST BUSINESS. AND IF IT HELPS, I MADE 'EM DOUBLE THE BOUNTY FOR YA--

--GONNA NEED EVERY PENNY I CAN GET TO PAY FOR THAT BEACH HOUSE IN BELIZE.

ARCADE! OPEN ONE OF THE GATES--

I NEED A DRINK...

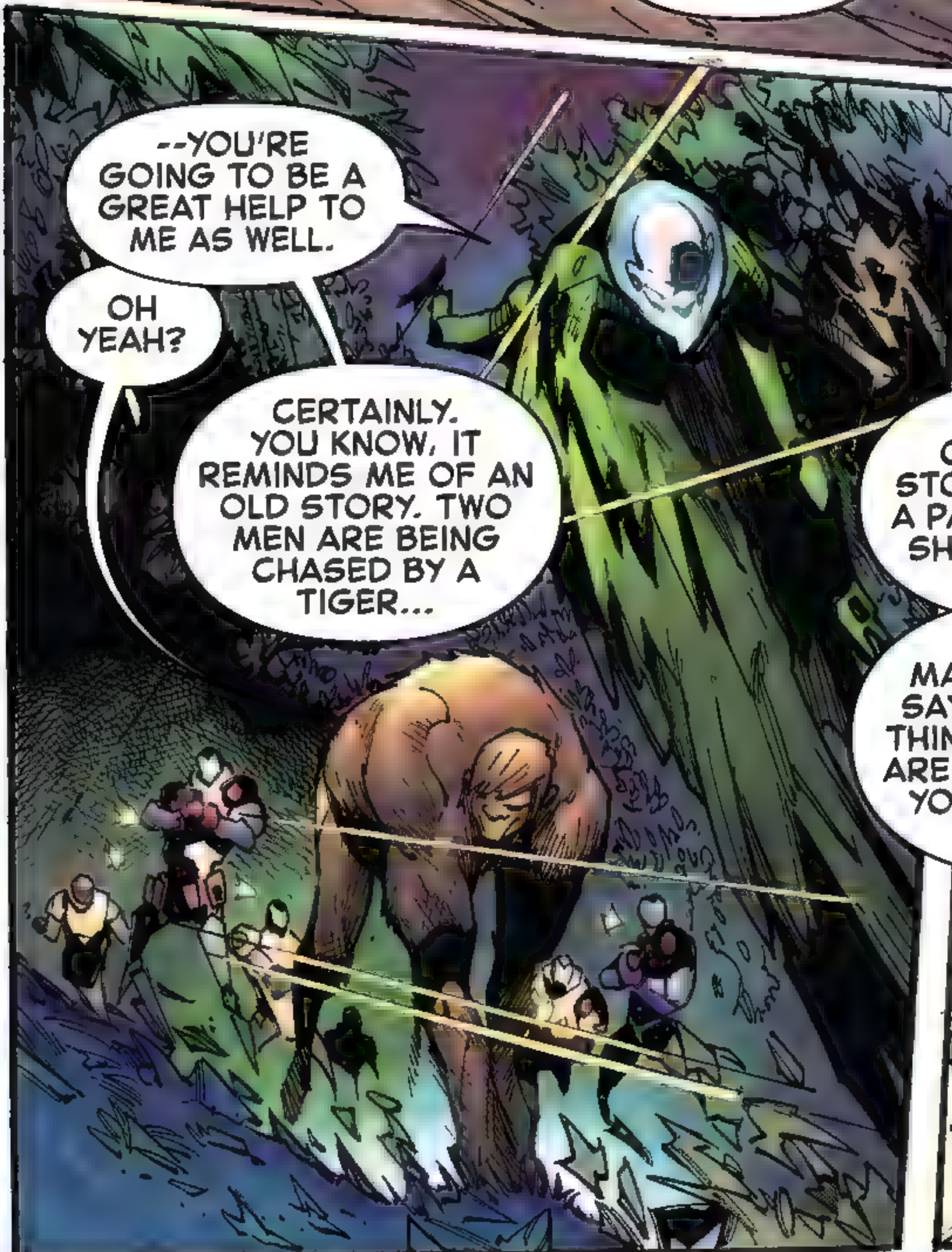
SUCH A VICIOUS PLACE, ISN'T IT?



IT'S AMAZING ANYONE TRUSTS ANYONE.

THANKS AGAIN FOR WATCHING MY BACK, MR. VULTURE. I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT--US SUPER VILLAINS GOTTA STICK TOGETHER, RIGHT?

DON'T MENTION IT, GIBBON. AFTER ALL--



--YOU'RE GOING TO BE A GREAT HELP TO ME AS WELL.

OH YEAH?

CERTAINLY. YOU KNOW, IT REMINDS ME OF AN OLD STORY. TWO MEN ARE BEING CHASED BY A TIGER...

SUDDENLY ONE OF THEM STOPS, PULLS OUT A PAIR OF RUNNING SHOES AND PUTS THEM ON.

THE OTHER MAN LAUGHS AND SAYS, "YOU REALLY THINK THOSE SHOES ARE GOING TO MAKE YOU FASTER THAN A TIGER?"

THE MAN REPLIES, "I DON'T NEED TO BE FASTER THAN THE TIGER--



--I JUST NEED TO BE FASTER THAN YOU."

HEY-- WAIT! MR. VULTURE--



NOOOO!

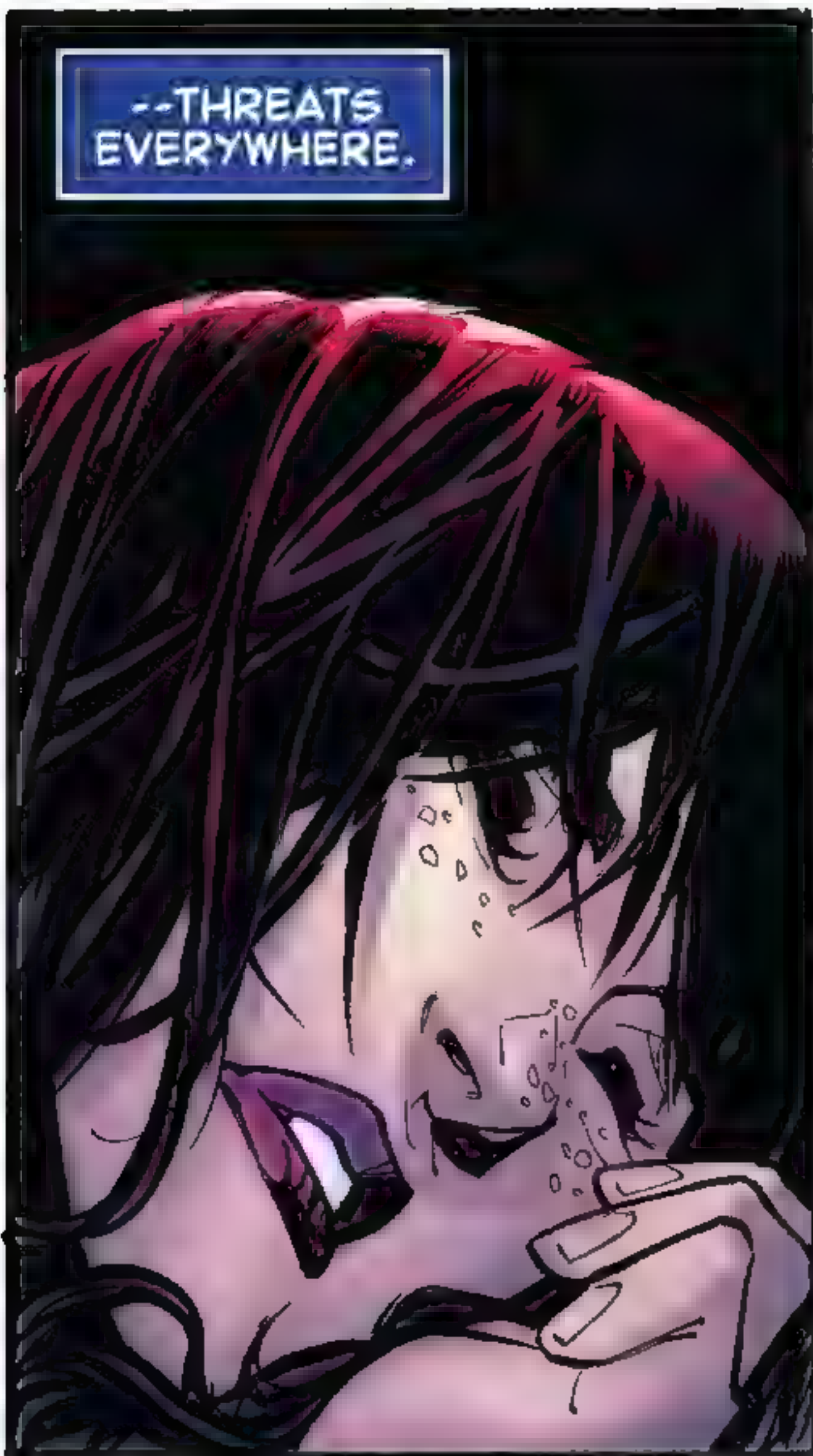
WE GOT ONE, WE GOT ONE!



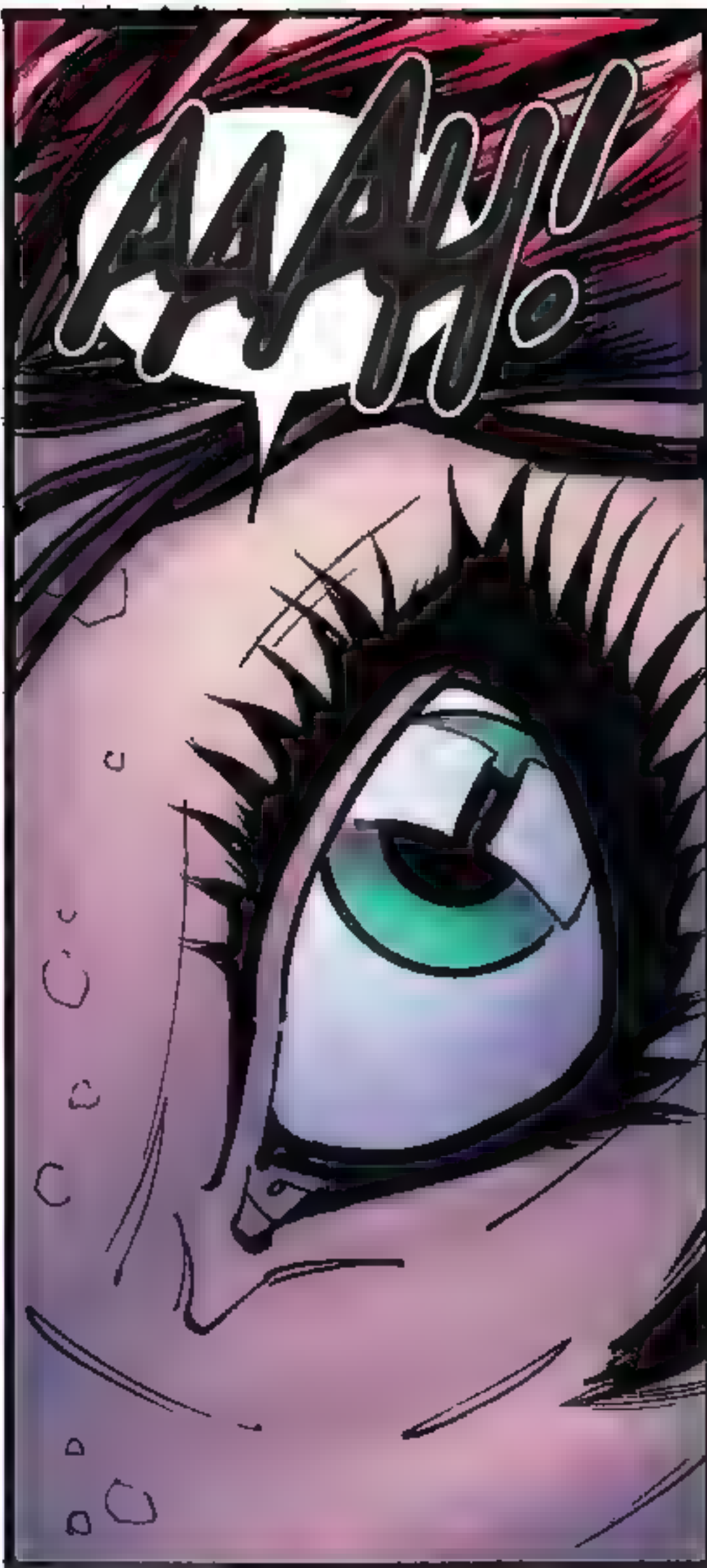
HEH.

AGGGHHH!

YEP. NASTY BRITISH SHORT MAN. THAT HOBBS. HE KNEW THE SCORE, RIGHT?



--THREATS
EVERYWHERE.



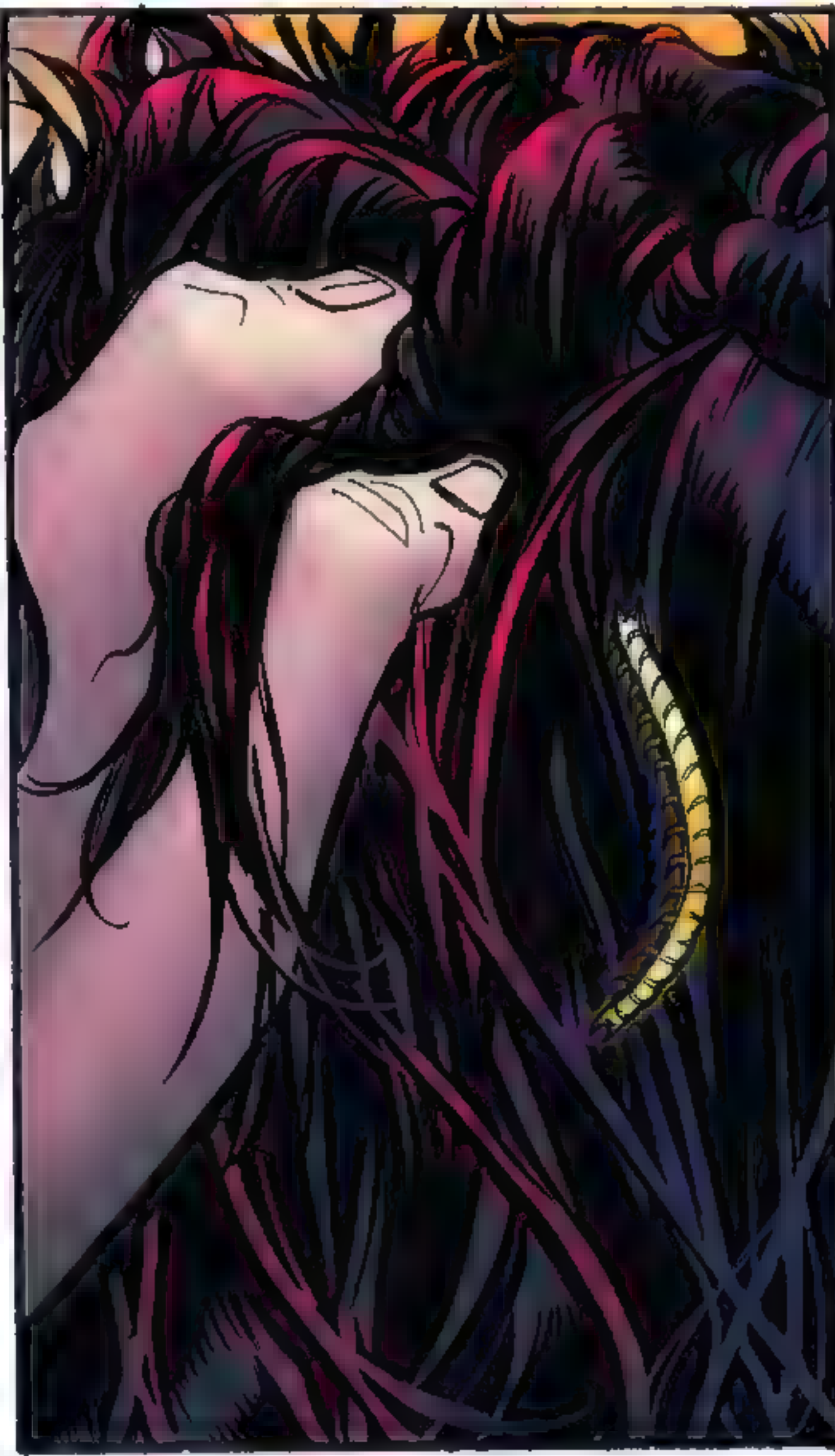
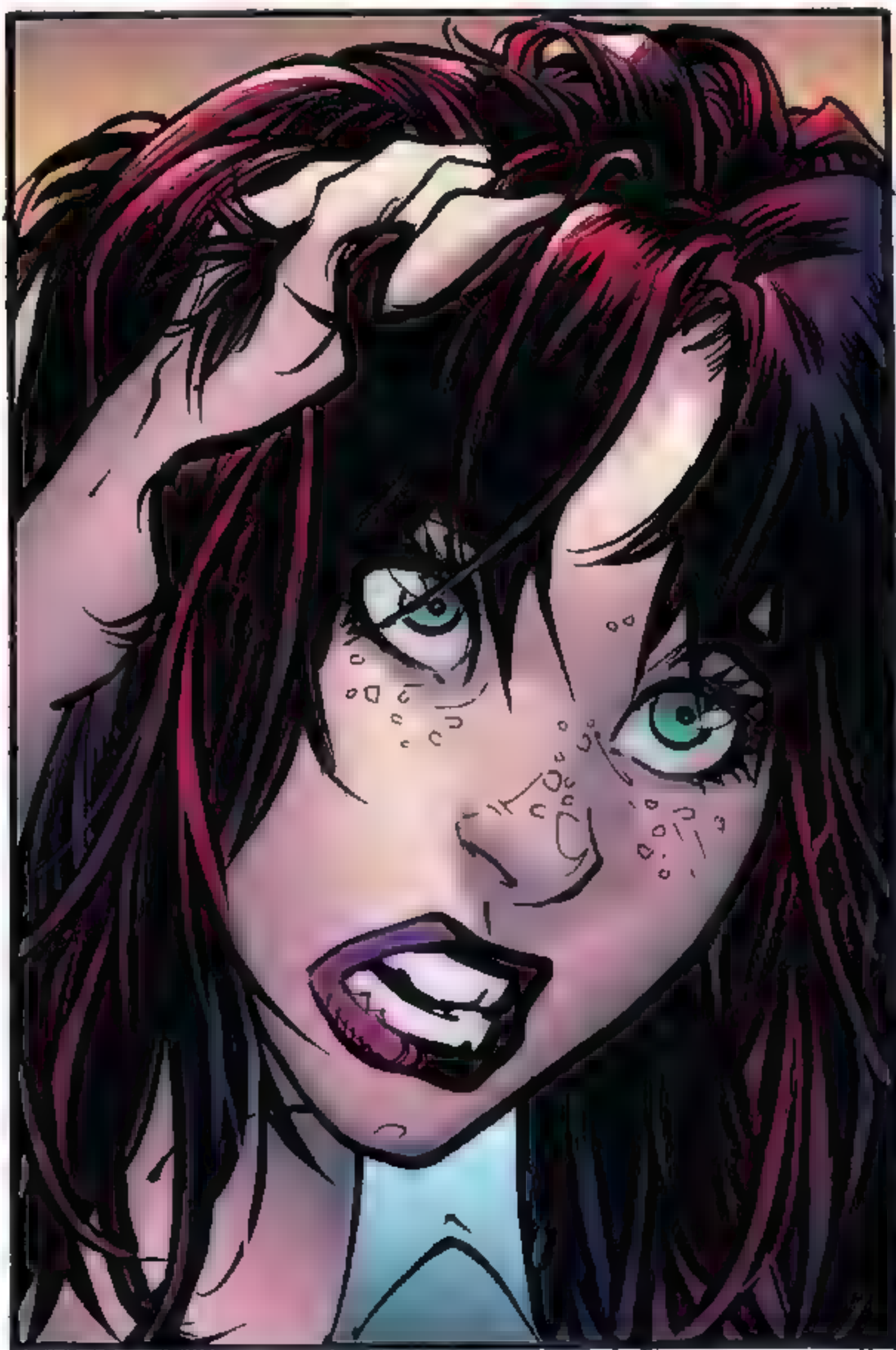
AAAY!



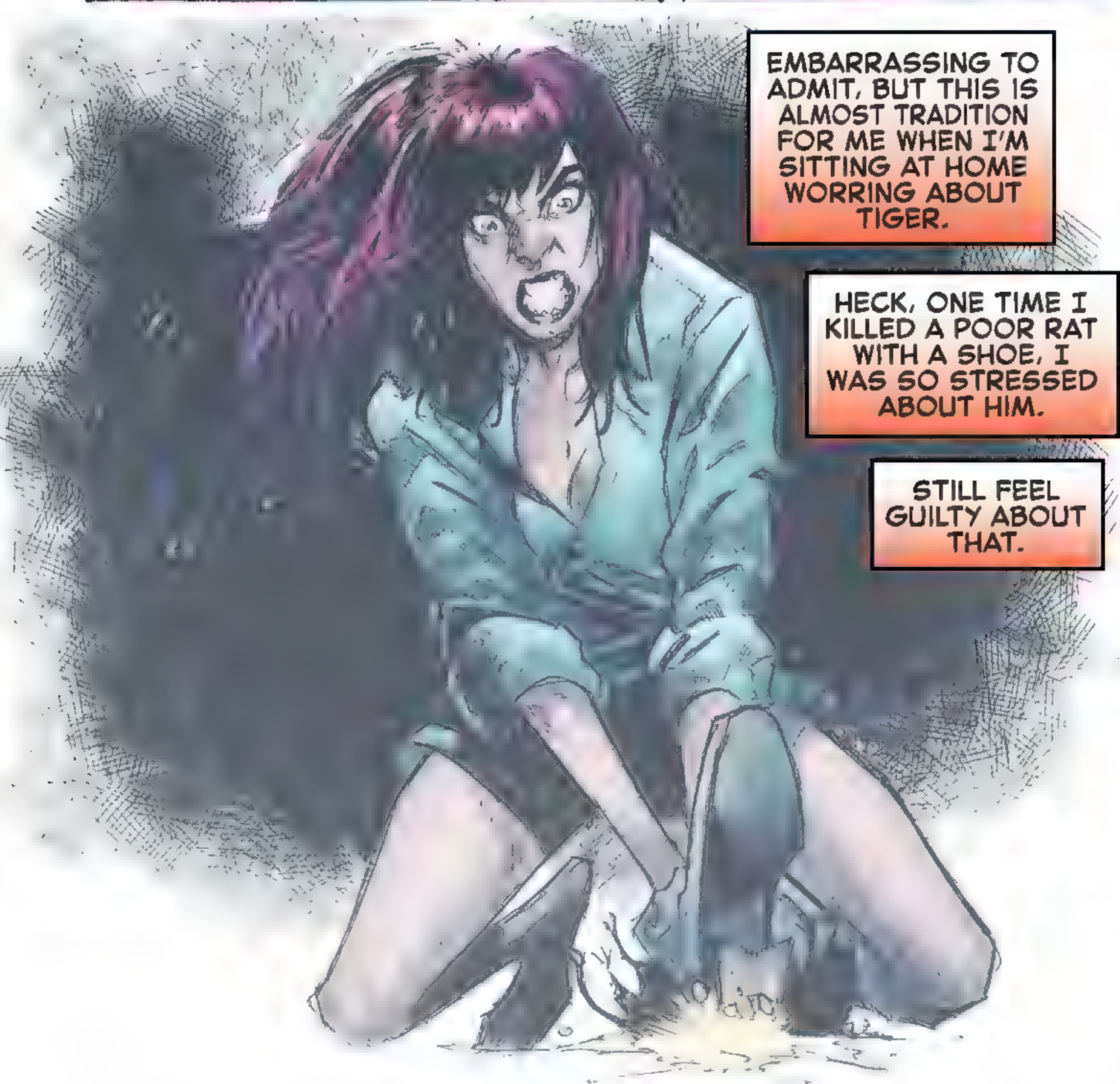
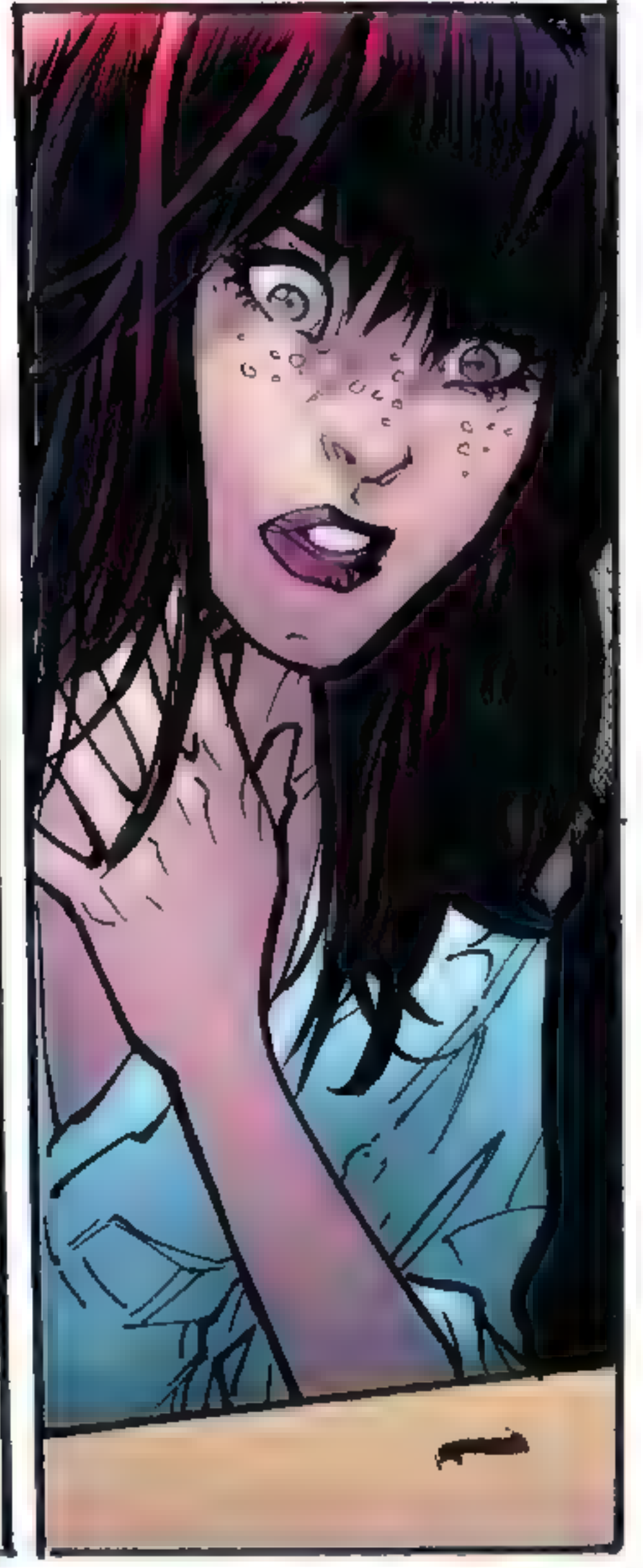
UNBELIEVABLE!
AFTER A NIGHT OF
WORRYING MYSELF
SICK, I FINALLY FALL
ASLEEP, THEN--

--FELT
SOMETHING...
SOMETHING
ON ME. ALL
OVER ME--

--SLITHERING.



WELL, THERE
YOU GO, M.J.
WHAT A
TERRIFYING
MONSTER.



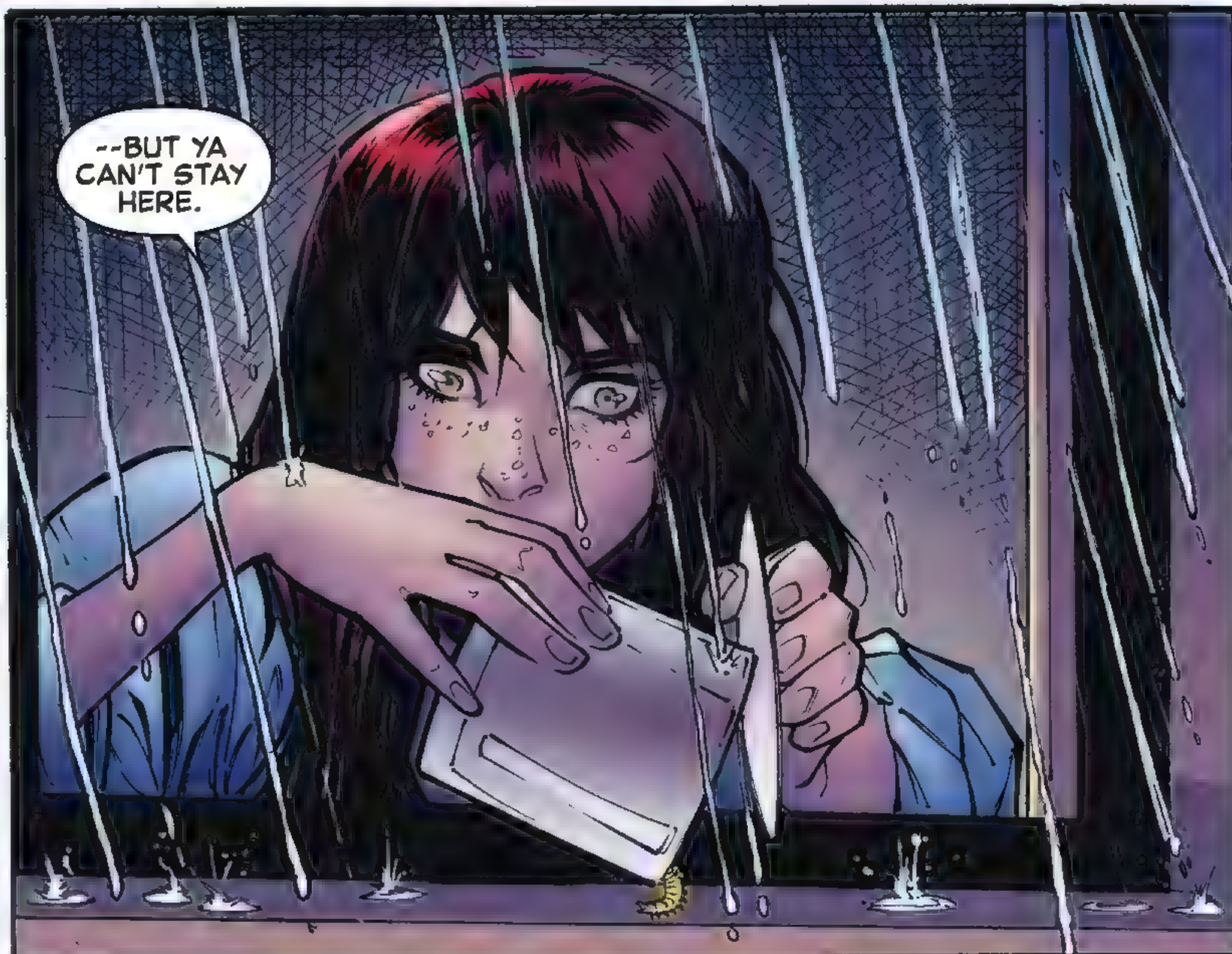
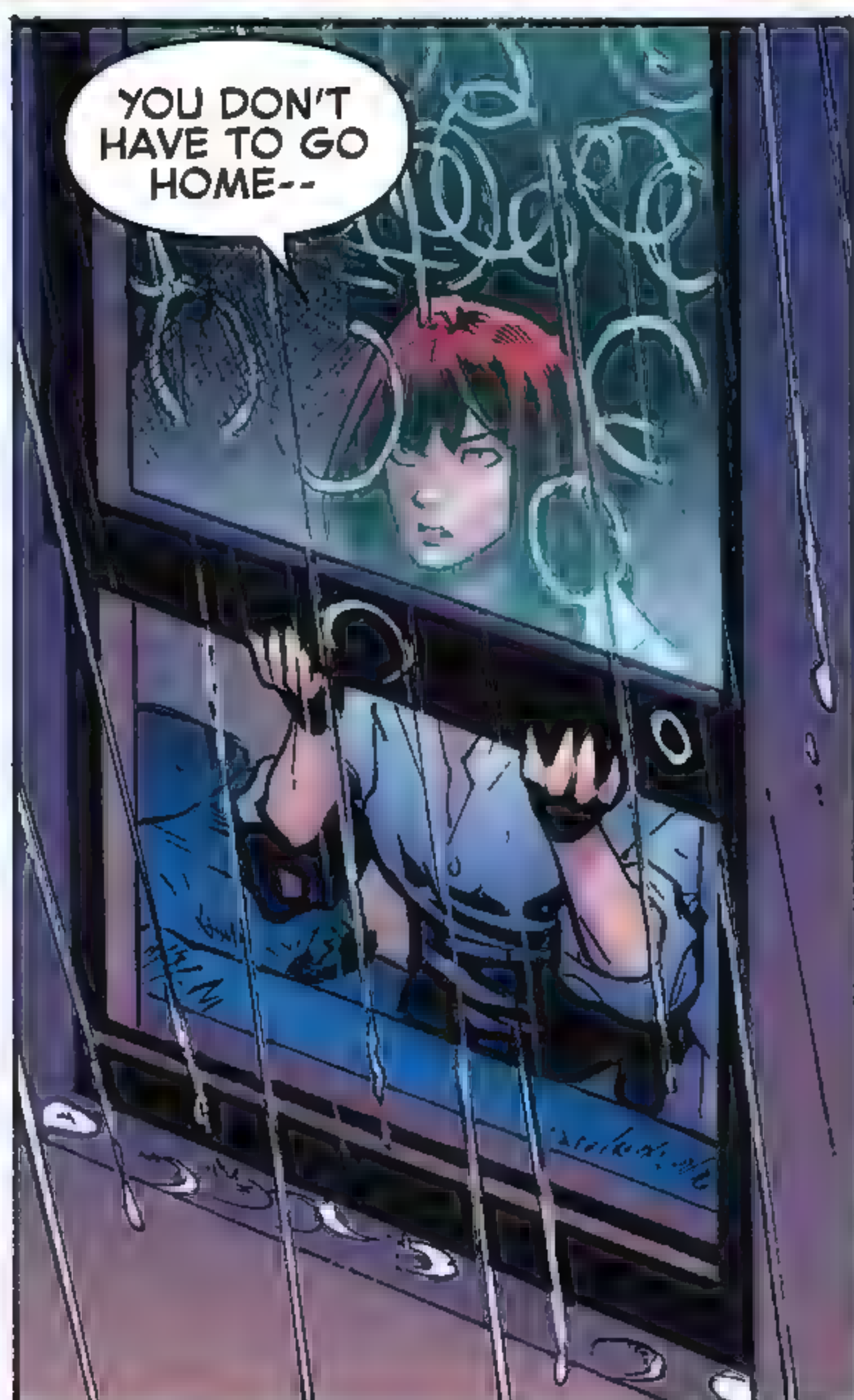
EMBARRASSING TO
ADMIT, BUT THIS IS
ALMOST TRADITION
FOR ME WHEN I'M
SITTING AT HOME
WORRYING ABOUT
TIGER.

HECK, ONE TIME I
KILLED A POOR RAT
WITH A SHOE, I
WAS SO STRESSED
ABOUT HIM.

STILL FEEL
GUILTY ABOUT
THAT.



BUT I LIKE TO
THINK I'VE COME
A LONG WAY
SINCE THEN.



--I'LL KEEP AN
EYE ON HER WHILE
YOU'RE GONE.



18.HU





SO THIS IS
ME WHEN I
WAS A KID.

NO. NOT
THERE



THERE

GIBBON

THOUGH YOU
WOULDN'T BE
THE FIRST
PERSON TO MAKE
THAT MISTAKE.

IT'S AN OLD,
NOT-FUNNY
JOKE

TOK



AW NO--
MARTY! I'M SORRY,
MAN--I THOUGHT
YOU WERE THE
MONKEY!

YOU SEE
HOW EASY IT
IS TO GET YOU
TWO MIXED
UP.

L-LEAVE
ME ALONE.

WHY? YOU NEED
SOME PRIVATE TIME
WITH YOUR *SWEETHEART*
HERE? HEY, IS THAT WHY
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DO?
MAYBE YOUR DAD HAD
A THING FOR--



DON'T
TALK ABOUT
MY DAD!

WHOOOA,
FELLAS--
WILD ANIMAL ON
THE LOOSE. WE
BETTER CORRAL
'IM--

LOOK
OUT! HE'S
FERAL!



I'M NOT
AN ANIMAL...
I'M NOT...

THAT LAUGHTER. YOU
KNOW, I COULD TAKE THE
BEATINGS. I COULD TAKE
THE TAUNTS. BUT I COULD
NEVER TAKE THE LAUGHTER.

GUESS NOT
MUCH HAS
CHANGED.

WE
GOT ONE,
BOYS!

YEAH, BUT
WHICH ONE?
APE-MAN?
GORILLA-
MAN?

UH--
UH, HEY,
GUYS--

--I'M THE
GIBBON.

HA
HA

WHAT'S A
GIBBON?

IT'S, UH,
A KIND OF
A LESSER
APE--

--IT DOESN'T MATTER.
LOOK, WHATEVER IT IS
YOU ALL WANT--

WHAT WE
WANT? HEH. LET
ME STOP YA RIGHT
THERE, SON. WHAT
I WANT--

BLAM

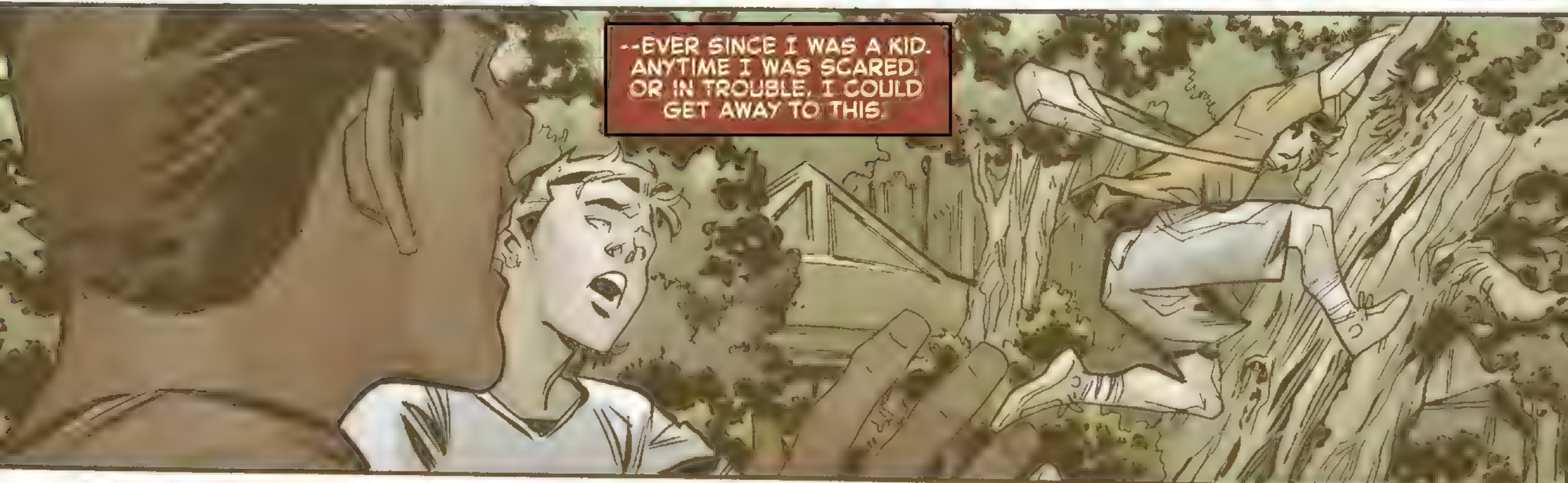
BLAM
BLAM

--IS YOU
MOUNTED
AND STUFFED
IN MY DEN.

OKAY, TALKING
IT OUT DIDN'T
WORK.



THEN AGAIN, I GUESS I WAS NEVER GOOD AT TALKING MUCH. THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING I WAS EVER GOOD AT, REALLY--



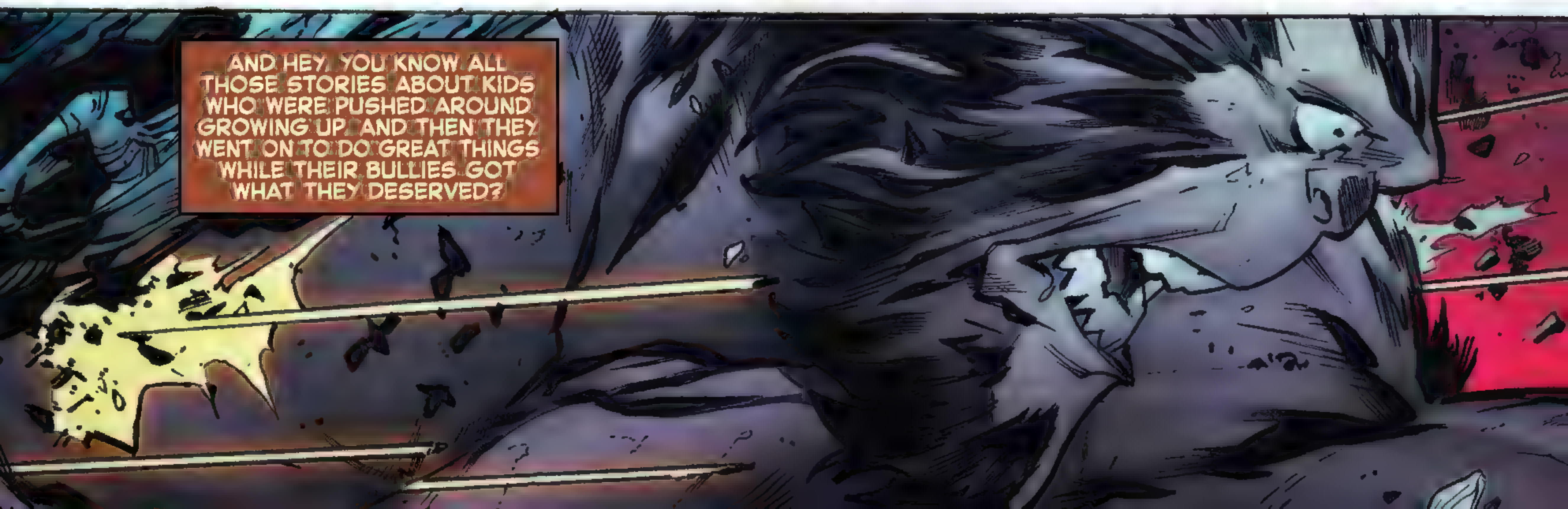
--EVER SINCE I WAS A KID. ANYTIME I WAS SCARED, OR IN TROUBLE, I COULD GET AWAY TO THIS.



THE TREES, THE ROOFTOPS, THE OPEN SKY...



IT'S THE ONLY PLACE I EVER FELT SAFE.



AND HEY, YOU KNOW ALL THOSE STORIES ABOUT KIDS WHO WERE PUSHED AROUND GROWING UP, AND THEN THEY WENT ON TO DO GREAT THINGS WHILE THEIR BULLIES GOT WHAT THEY DESERVED?



WELL, THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.

IN FACT, I HEARD A COUPLE OF THOSE OLD BULLIES ENDED UP GETTING REALLY NICE GIGS ON WALL STREET. ONE OF THEM STARTED HIS OWN HEDGE FUND.

ME?



I TOOK THE ONLY JOB I COULD GET. WORD TO THE WISE--



--IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH PUBLIC MOCKERY OR PEOPLE LAUGHING AT YOU.

DON'T JOIN THE CIRCUS.



AFTER I GOT FIRED, I ENDED UP IN A FLOPHOUSE, SHARING A BATHROOM WITH A DOZEN OTHER GUYS.

IT WAS PRETTY AWFUL--

--BUT IT HAD A GREAT ROOFTOP. AND THAT'S WHERE I'D GO EVERY NIGHT.

THAT'S WHERE EVERYTHING CHANGED...



...ONCE I MET
THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN.

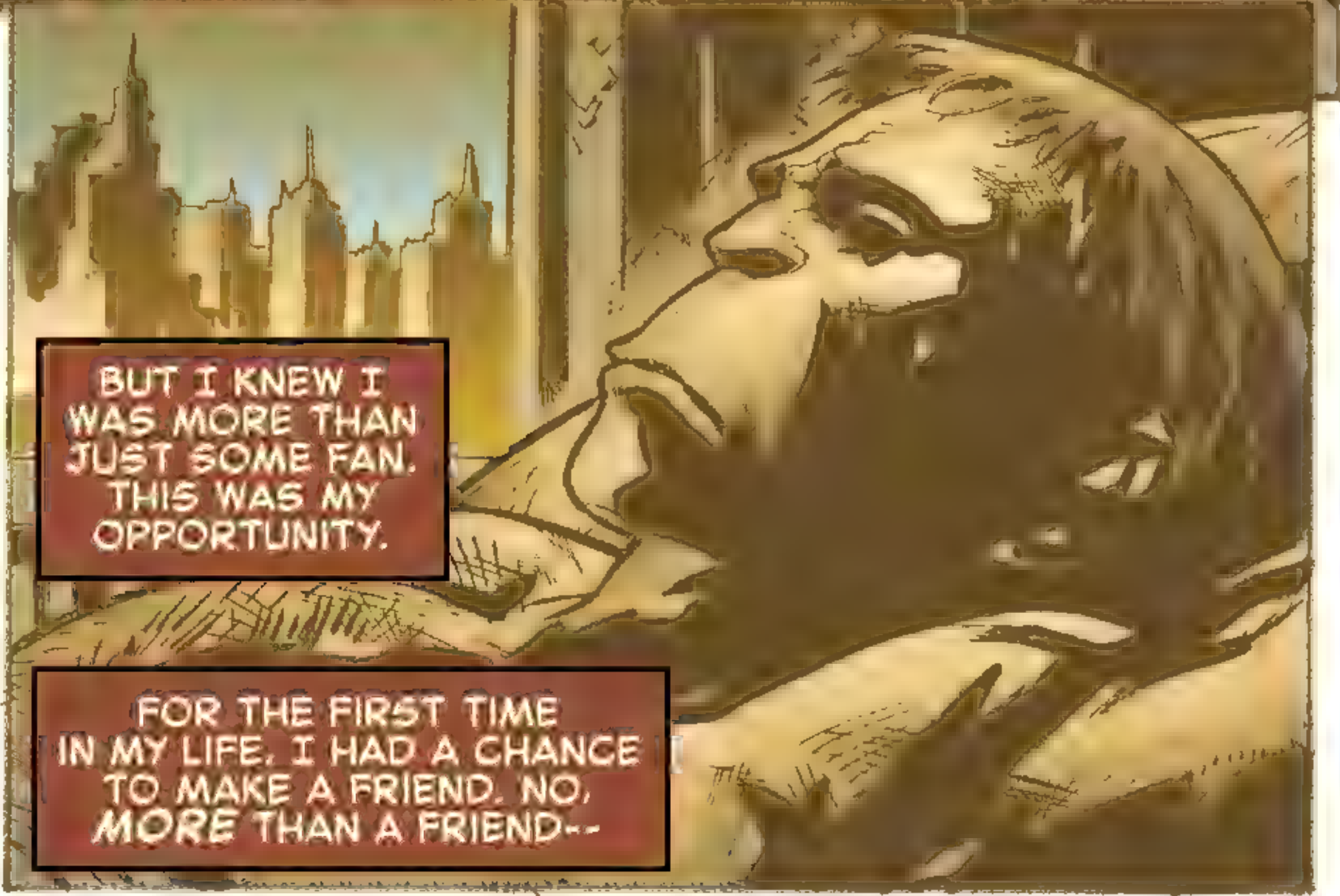
HE WAS LIKE ME. WELL,
NOT EXACTLY LIKE ME,
BUT--THERE HE WAS,
SWINGING AND JUMPING
AROUND IN THE AIR,
JUST LIKE I DID.

ALL THE STUFF I'D
ALWAYS DONE
ALONE, SUDDENLY--



THERE WAS
SOMEONE
ELSE.

I READ ALL ABOUT
HIM. WATCHED EVERY
NEWS BROADCAST
FOR A SIGHTING OF
HIM. I GOT A LITTLE,
UM, OBSESSED.



BUT I KNEW I
WAS MORE THAN
JUST SOME FAN.
THIS WAS MY
OPPORTUNITY.

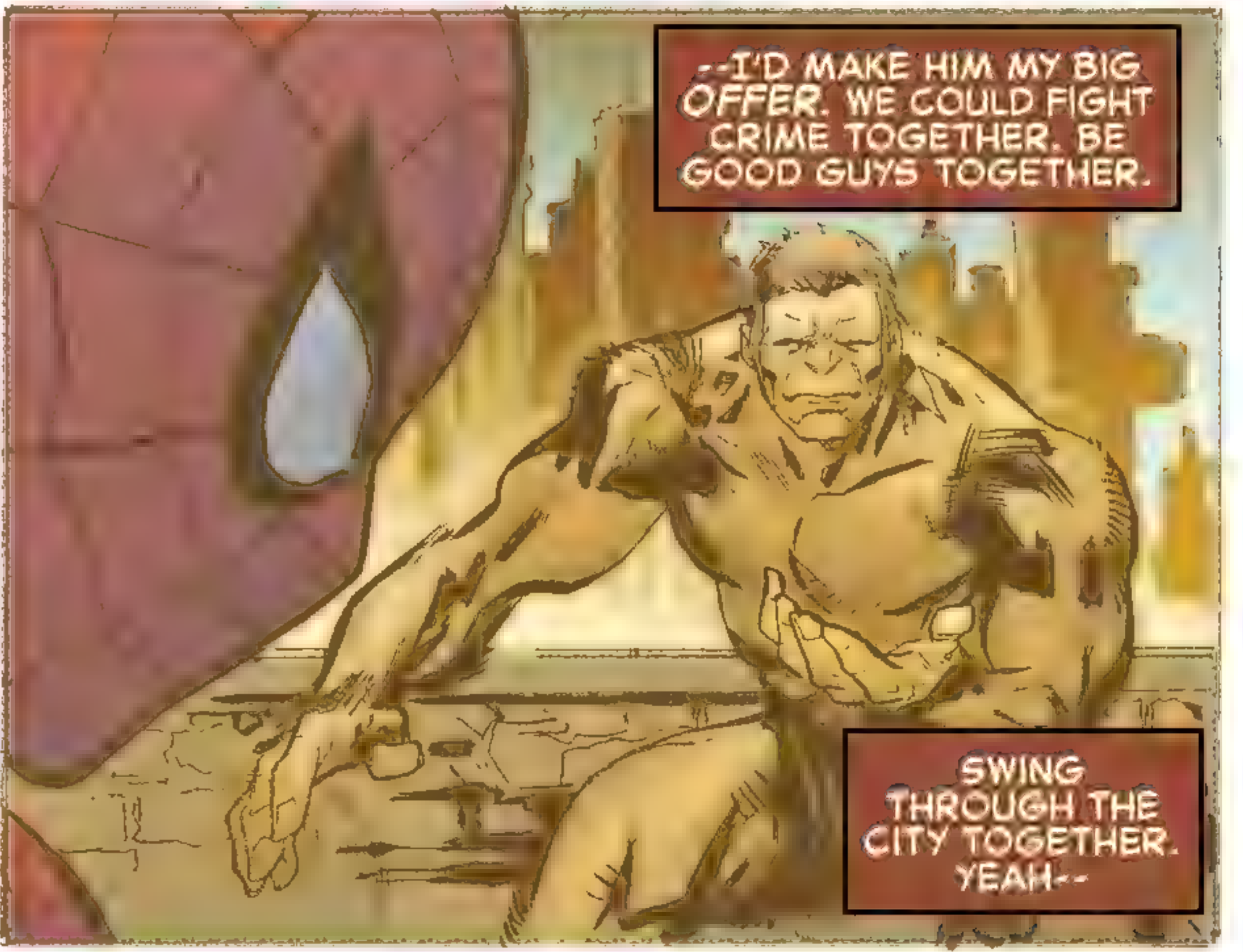
FOR THE FIRST TIME
IN MY LIFE, I HAD A CHANCE
TO MAKE A FRIEND. NO,
MORE THAN A FRIEND--



--A PARTNER.

I STILL HAD MY
CIRCUS SUIT, AND
I DECIDED TO TRY
AND PUT IT TO
SOME GOOD USE.

I'D STALK AROUND
THE CITY, TRYING
TO FIND HIM. AND
ONCE I DID--



--I'D MAKE HIM MY BIG
OFFER. WE COULD FIGHT
CRIME TOGETHER. BE
GOOD GUYS TOGETHER.

SWING
THROUGH THE
CITY TOGETHER.
YEAH--

[illegible]

I KNOW I OVERREACTED
I JUST—WHEN HE
STARTED LAUGHING
AT ME, JUST LIKE
EVERYBODY ELSE HAD
ALWAYS DONE, I FELT—

IT DOESN'T
MATTER
POINT IS, I
BLEW IT

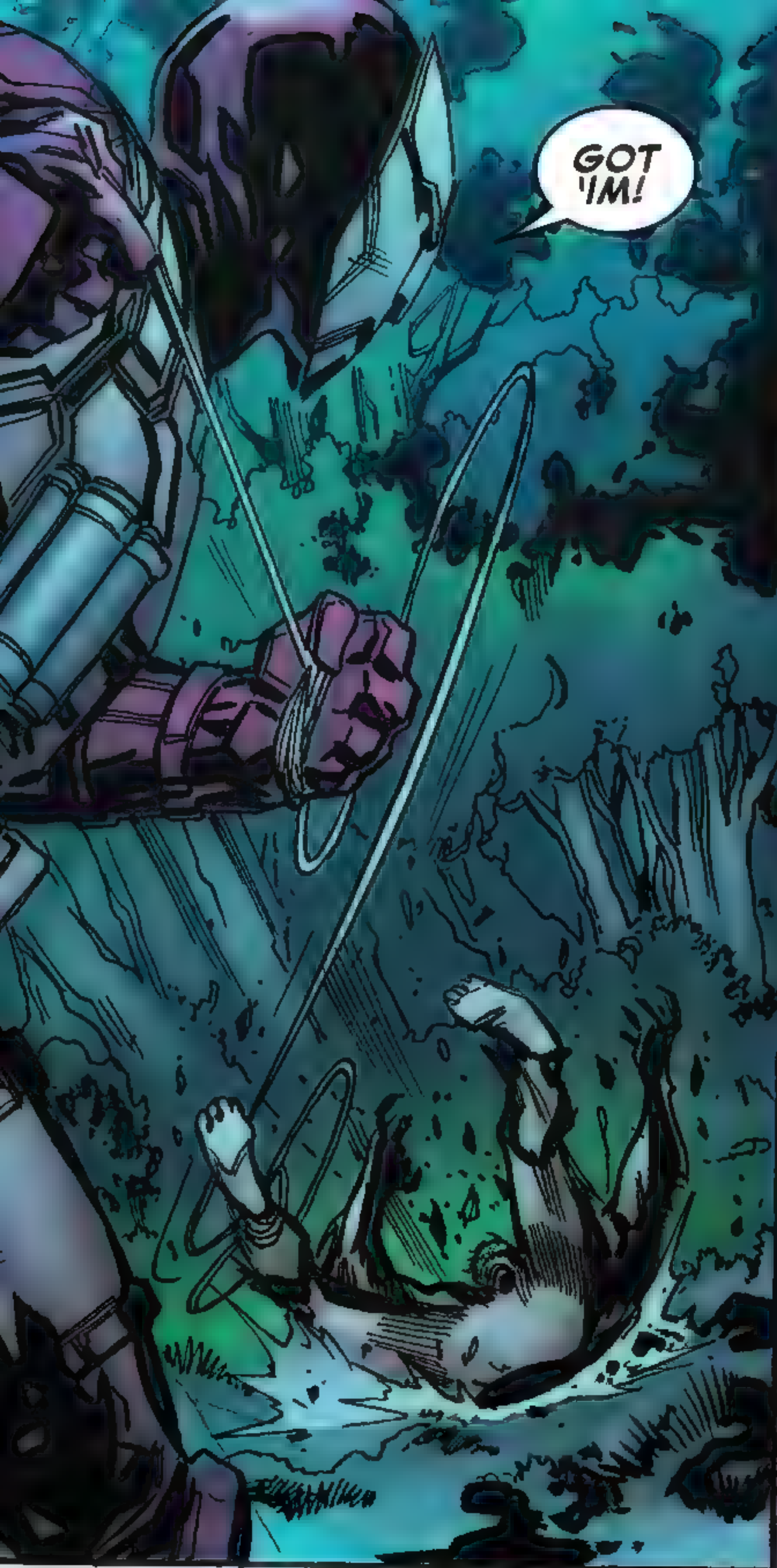
I'VE THOUGHT
ABOUT THAT DAY—THE
LIFE I COULD'VE HAD
IF I'D DONE THINGS
DIFFERENTLY.

YOU REPLAY IT OVER
AND OVER, AND THEN
THAT STARTS TO
HURT TOO MUCH.

SO INSTEAD
YOU TRY TO
FORGET

**YOU TRY TO
BURY YOUR
REGRETS**

BUT THEY
ALWAYS CATCH
UP WITH YOU
IN THE END



GOT 'IM!



SWEET!
DON'T LET
HIM GET AWAY
AGAIN!



THAT FACE--
I KNOW THAT
FACE. IT
LOOKS LIKE--



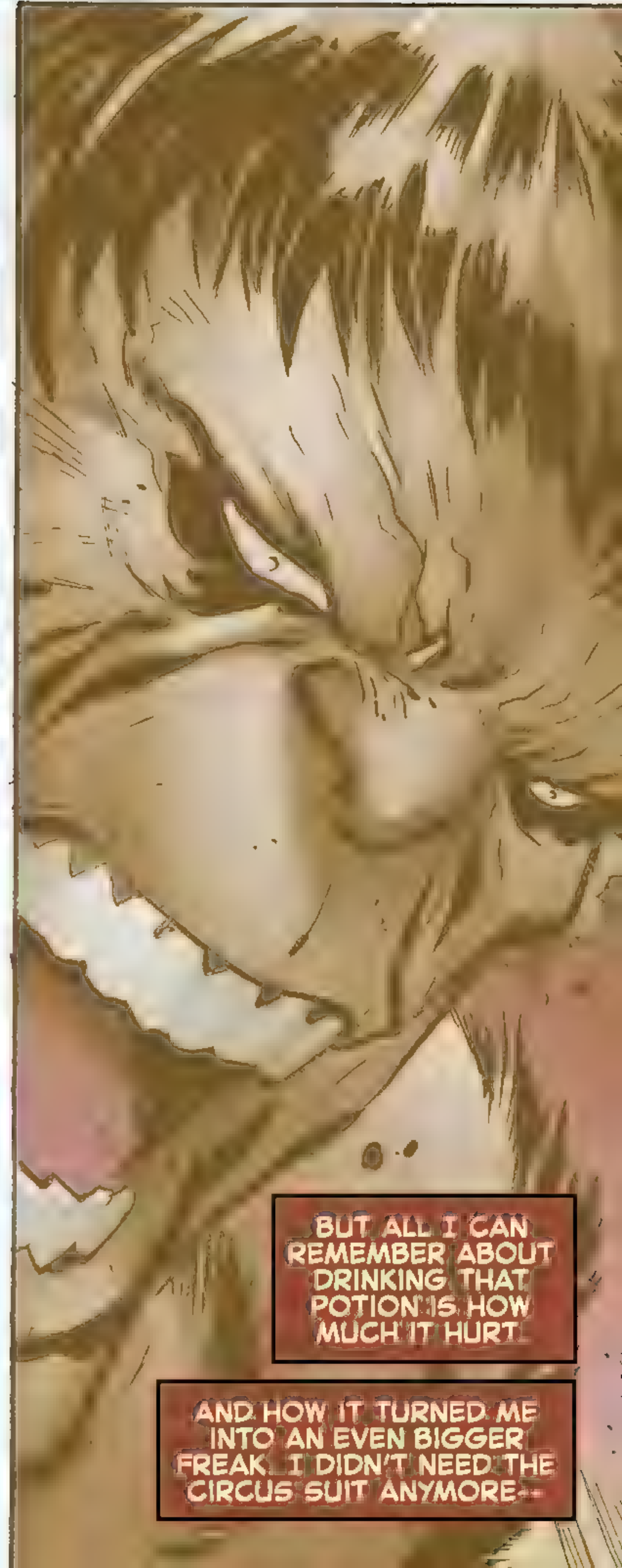
--KRAVEN
THE HUNTER.

HE FOUND ME NOT
LONG AFTER MY
UM, ENCOUNTER
WITH SPIDER-MAN.

HE SAID HE
COULD MAKE ME
STRONGER,
TOUGHER THAN
I'D EVER BEEN.



FOR A GUY WHO'D
BEEN PUSHED AROUND
HIS WHOLE LIFE, IT
WAS A PRETTY
TEMPTING OFFER.



BUT ALL I CAN
REMEMBER ABOUT
DRINKING THAT
POTION IS HOW
MUCH IT HURT.

AND HOW IT TURNED ME
INTO AN EVEN BIGGER
FREAK. I DIDN'T NEED THE
CIRCUS SUIT ANYMORE--

--I WAS THE ANIMAL
EVERYONE ALWAYS
WANTED ME TO BE.

BUT EVEN
THAT DIDN'T
REALLY STICK.

EVEN WITH HIS
POTION, I DIDN'T
HAVE THAT KILLER
INSTINCT. SOME
PEOPLE JUST DON'T

OTHERS
IN MY
EXPERIENCE,
DO.

BLAM
BLAM

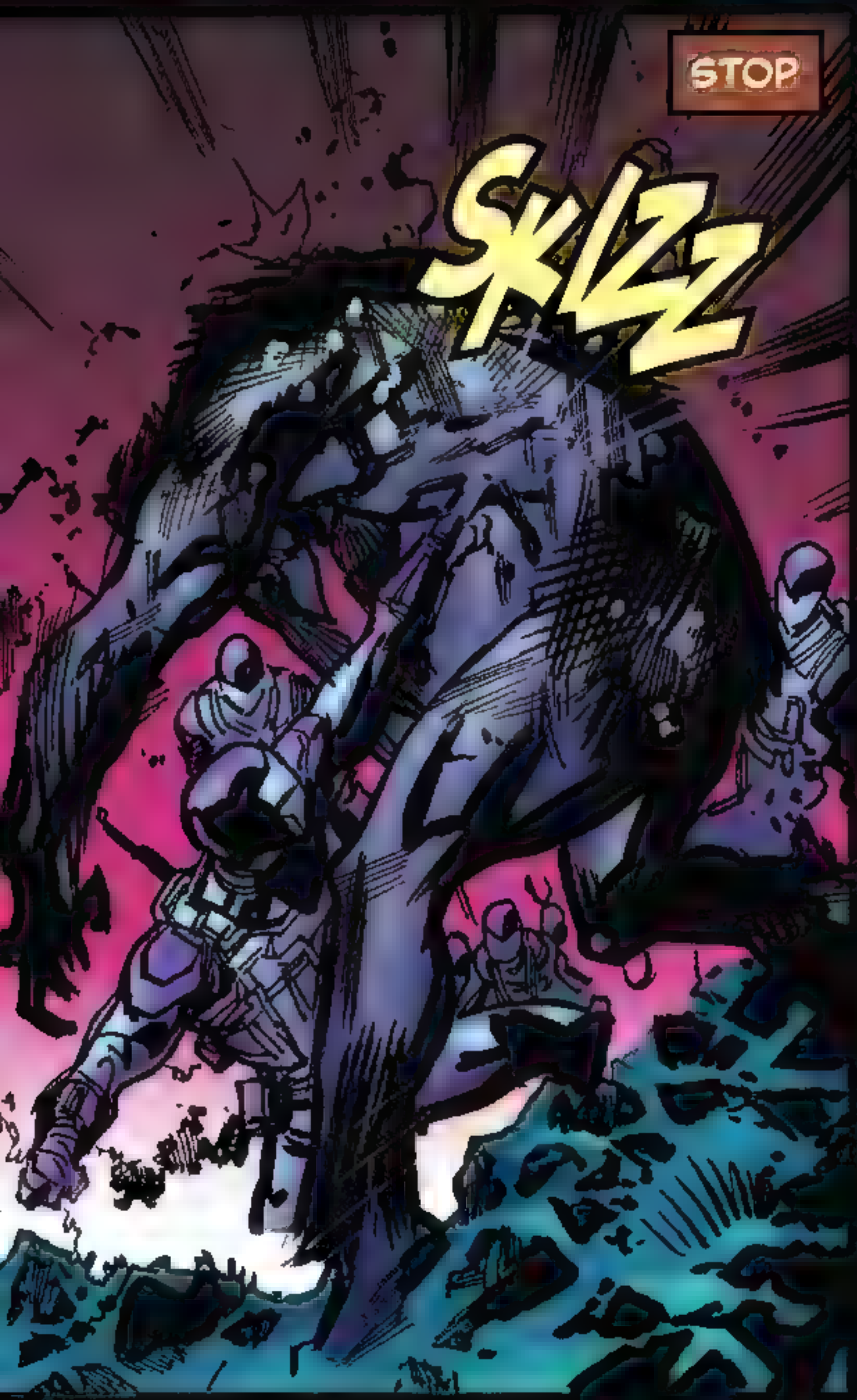
PLEASE--
WAIT--
DON'T--

BECAUSE THAT'S
THE PART I LEFT
OUT BEFORE--

--I DIDN'T
ALWAYS MANAGE
TO ESCAPE FROM
THE BULLIES.

ANY YEEEE!

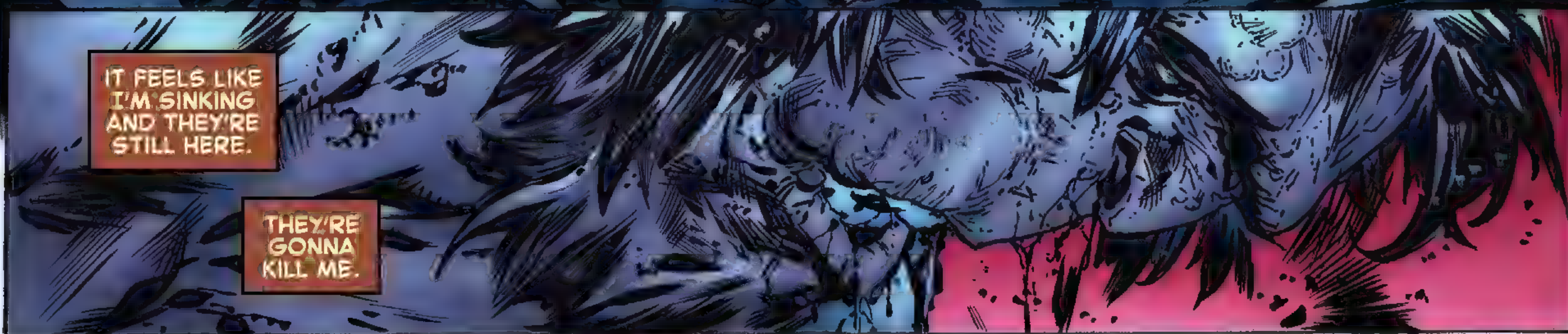
SOMETIMES
I GOT STUCK
ON THE
GROUND.





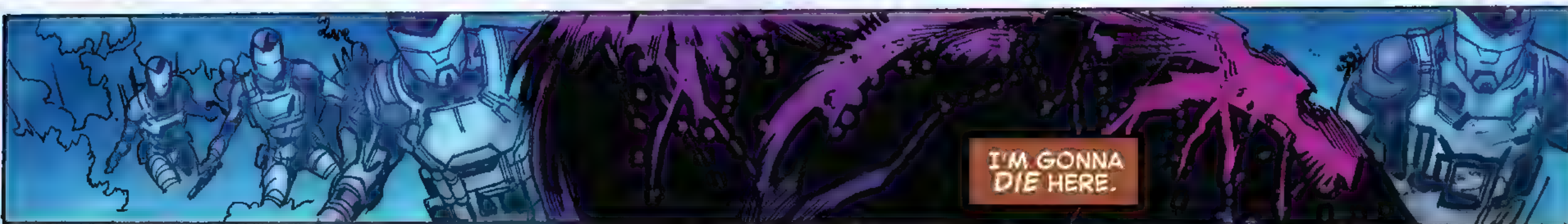
I FEEL BAD.
AND SCARED.

EVERY
SINGLE INCH OF
ME IS IN PAIN. I'VE
NEVER FELT PAIN
LIKE THIS.



IT FEELS LIKE
I'M SINKING
AND THEY'RE
STILL HERE.

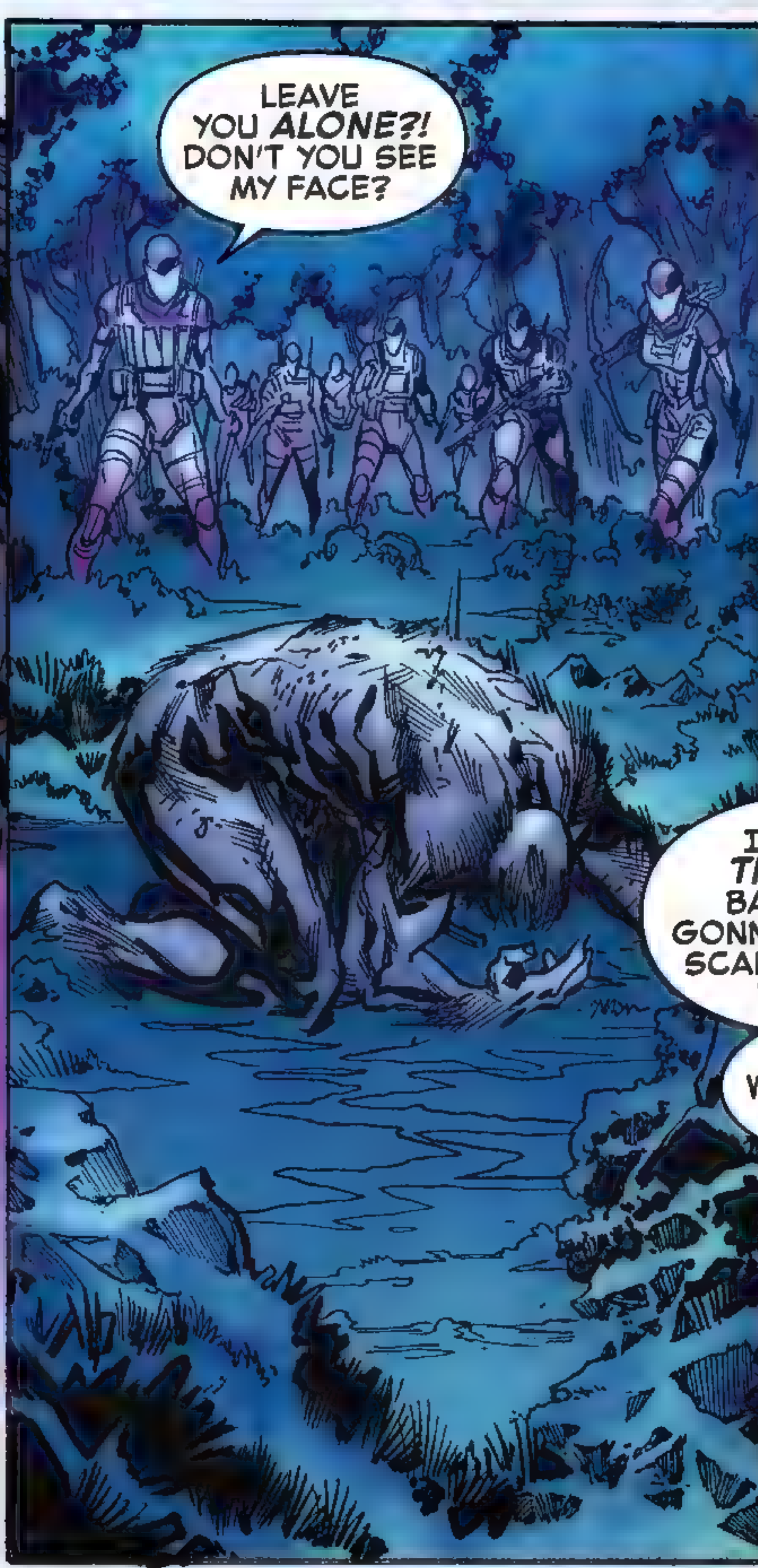
THEY'RE
GONNA
KILL ME.



I'M GONNA
DIE HERE.



PLEASE...
WHATEVER I DID...
I'M SORRY. JUST--
JUST LEAVE ME
ALONE... OKAY?
LEAVE ME ALONE,
PLEASE...



LEAVE
YOU ALONE?!
DON'T YOU SEE
MY FACE?



I'M KRAVEN
THE HUNTER,
BABY! NOW I'M
GONNA GET ME THAT
SCALP TO SHOW MY
DAD HOW--

WAIT,
WHAT'S THAT
NOISE?

RUUMMBLEE



**OUT
OF MY
WAY, YOU
FOOLS!**

DUDE--
THE RHINO!
THAT WAS THE
FRIGGIN'
RHINO!

IF WE
HURRY, WE
CAN CATCH UP
TO HIM!

YEAH,
GOOD IDEA--
LET'S JUST
GET--

WAIT,
WHERE'D THE
MONKEY
GO?

IT'S WEIRD WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN YOU
REALIZE YOU'RE
GONNA DIE.

TO KEEP MOVING, I
JUST TRY TO THINK OF
THE GOOD THINGS. THE
GOOD TIMES I DID
HAVE A FRIEND ONCE.

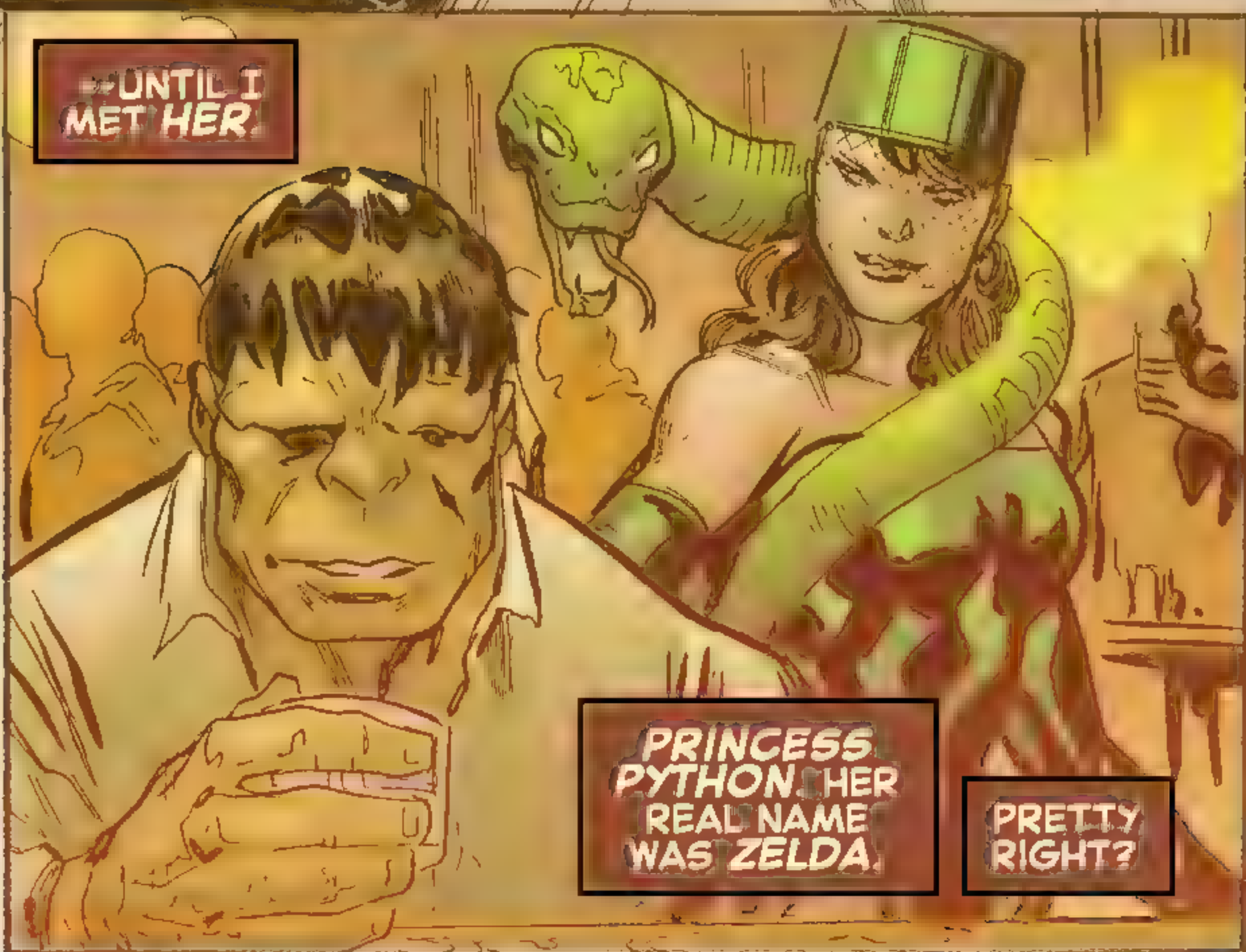
ME AND THIS OTHER
COSTUME GUY, GRIZZLY,
LEFT THE SPIDER-MAN
REVENGE SQUAD TO TRY
AND BE HEROES.

THAT WAS SO MUCH FUN.
IT WAS THE ONLY TIME
I DIDN'T MIND PEOPLE
LAUGHING. FOR ONCE I
FELT LIKE I WAS IN ON
THE JOKE. YOU KNOW?



BUT THEN GRIZZLY GOT
ANOTHER JOB. AND HE
DIDN'T REALLY HAVE
TIME TO HANG OUT. I
DON'T BLAME HIM.

I WAS ON
MY OWN
AGAIN.



UNTIL I
MET HER.

PRINCESS
PYTHON. HER
REAL NAME
WAS ZELDA.

PRETTY
RIGHT?

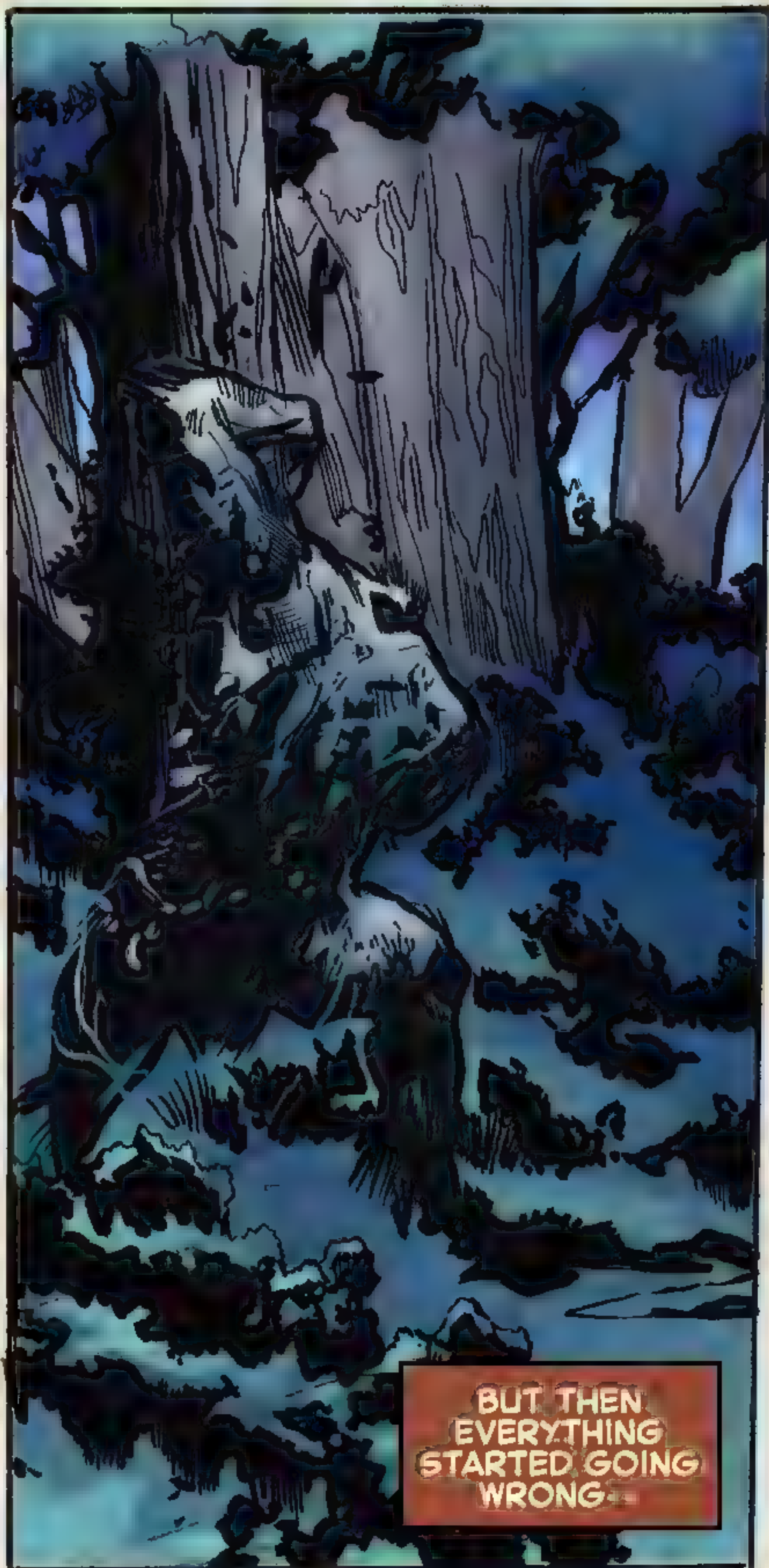


I THOUGHT SHE WAS
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
LADY I'D EVER SEEN.
AND SOMEHOW SHE
LIKED ME!



SHE GOT HURT. LOST HER
EYESIGHT. I GOT A CONSTRUCTION
JOB AND WE ENDED UP GETTING
MARRIED SO SHE COULD
BE ON MY INSURANCE.

EVERY NIGHT, I'D
COME HOME AND
TAKE CARE OF HER.
I'D NEVER BEEN
SO HAPPY.



BUT THEN
EVERYTHING
STARTED GOING
WRONG.

--WHEN SHE
STARTED
GETTING
BETTER.

I GUESS ACTUALLY
HAVING TO LOOK
AT ME GOT OLD
QUICK. SHE SAID
I WAS BORING.

SHE STARTED TALKING
TO ONE OF HER OLD
CRIME BUDDIES--THIS
GUY LIVE WIRE.

THEY TALKED A LOT.
SHE SAID THEY WERE
JUST FRIENDS--

--BUT I WASN'T
REALLY
SURPRISED
WHEN SHE LEFT.

I STILL REMEMBER
HEARING HER
LAUGH WHEN SHE
WAS GETTING IN
THAT CAR.

I REALLY
LOVED HER
LAUGH.

AFTER THAT, I
JUST KINDA
KEPT MY HEAD
DOWN.

'TIL ONE DAY
TASKMASTER
AND BLACK ANT
CAME OUT OF
NOWHERE--

--AND I
ENDED UP
HERE

WASN'T
ALL BAD
THOUGH



SHE WAS
HERE, TOO



AND I THOUGHT, HEY
THIS IS MY CHANCE.
I COULD TALK TO HER.
MAYBE TRY TO GET
HER BACK. TELL HER
SOME JOKES.



DIDN'T GET
THE CHANCE
THOUGH



SO WHEN THINGS
GOT CRAZY, SPIDEY
AND VULTURE BOTH
ASKED ME TO COME
WITH THEM.

AND I THOUGHT, WELL,
SHE'LL GO WITH THE BAD
GUYS. WITH VULTURE,
RIGHT? MAYBE I'D SEE
HER AGAIN. OR MAYBE
MY OLD PAL GRIZZLY
WOULD BE THERE.



THAT
WAS A
MISTAKE



I'VE MADE
A LOT OF
MISTAKES.

I NEVER
BELONGED
WITH ZELDA

I NEVER
BELONGED
ANYWHERE
DOWN THERE

I SHOULD'VE
JUST STAYED UP
HERE, UP HIGH,
WHERE IT'S SAFE

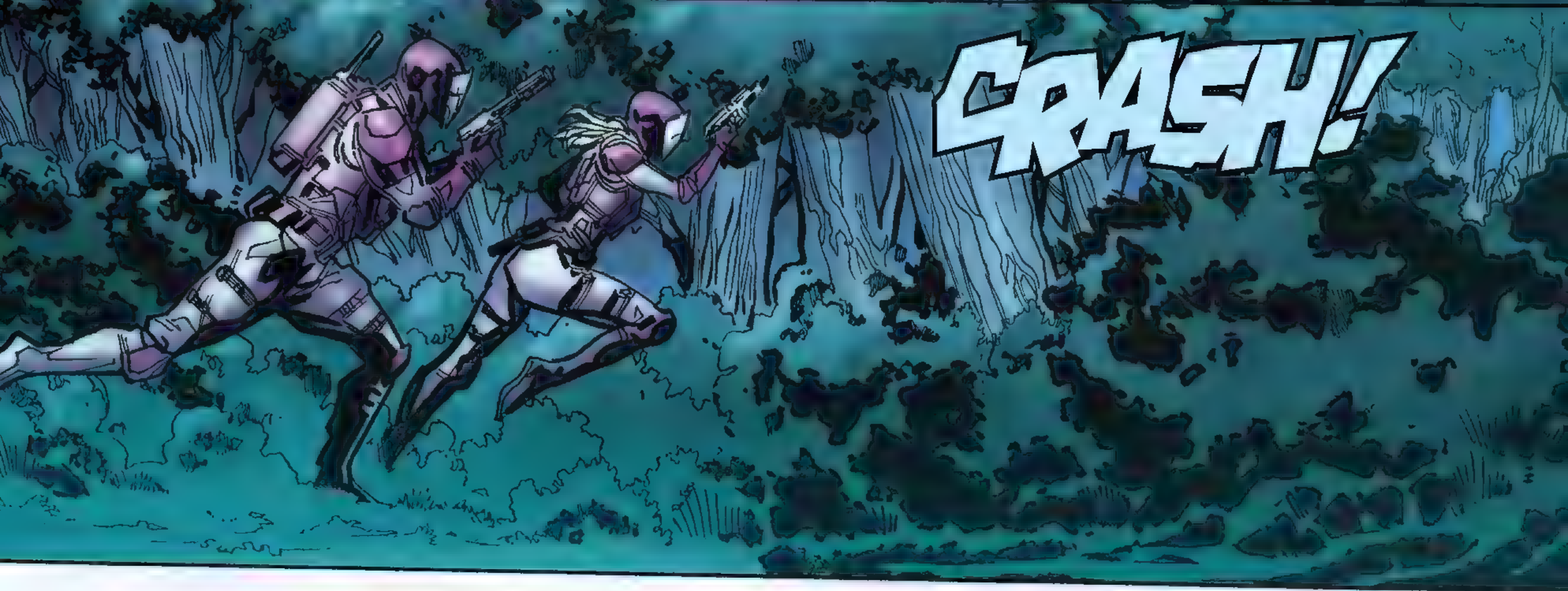
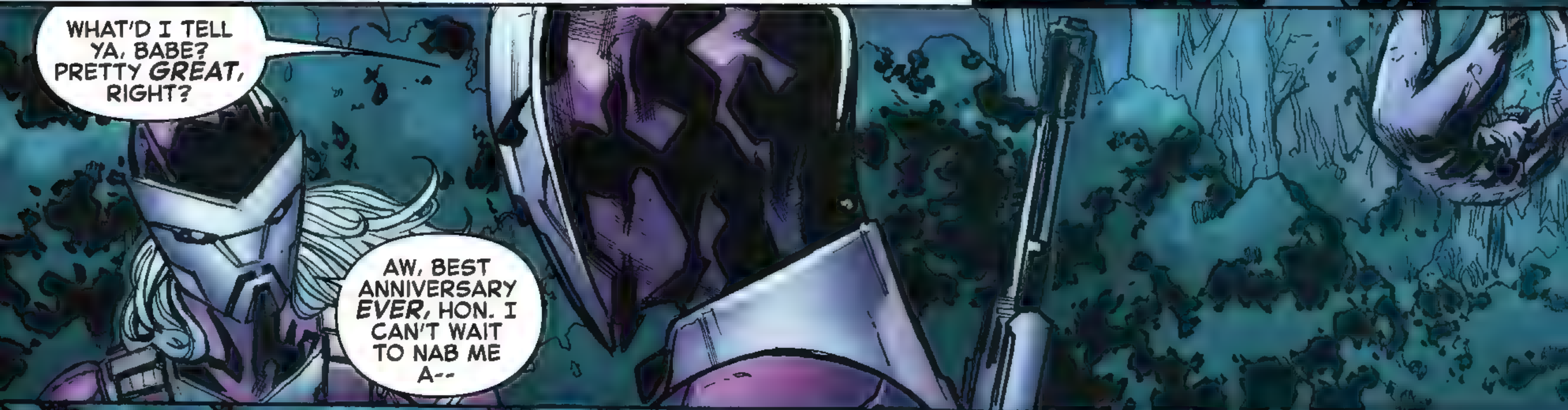
WHERE
I COULD
JUST...

REST



WHAT'D I TELL
YA, BABE?
PRETTY *GREAT*,
RIGHT?

AW, BEST
ANNIVERSARY
EVER, HON. I
CAN'T WAIT
TO NAB ME
A--



CRASH!

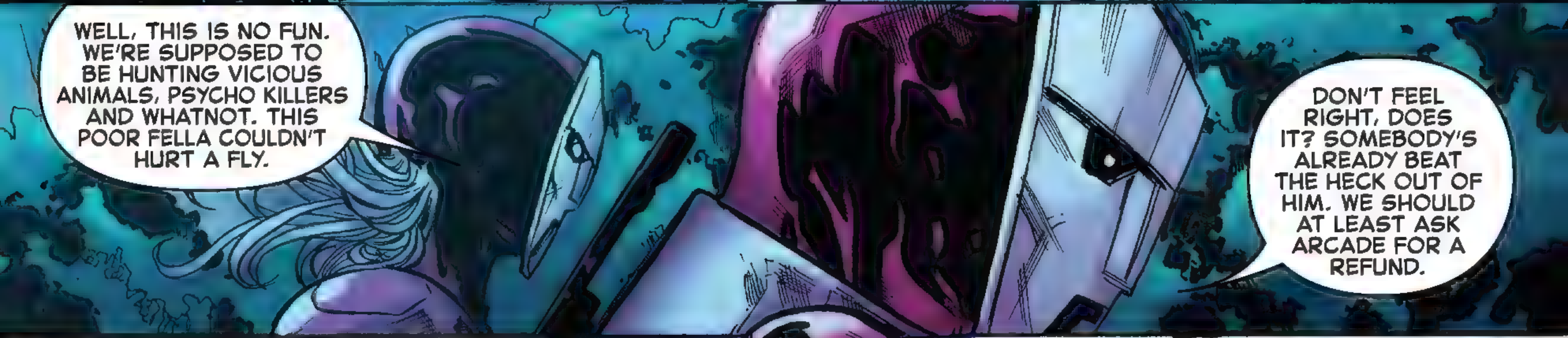


PLEASE--
PLEASE...
HELP ME...



WHAT--
WHAT IS
IT?
SOME
KINDA
MONKEY?

G-G-GIBBON...



WELL, THIS IS NO FUN.
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO
BE HUNTING VICIOUS
ANIMALS, PSYCHO KILLERS
AND WHATNOT. THIS
POOR FELLA COULDN'T
HURT A FLY.

DON'T FEEL
RIGHT, DOES
IT? SOMEBODY'S
ALREADY BEAT
THE HECK OUT OF
HIM. WE SHOULD
AT LEAST ASK
ARCADE FOR A
REFUND.



BUT WHAT DO WE DO
ABOUT THE LITTLE GUY?
HE'S LOOKING PRETTY
BAD, WON'T LAST LONG
OUT HERE.

SIGH ONLY
ONE THING YOU
CAN DO WITH AN
ANIMAL IN THIS
MUCH PAIN--

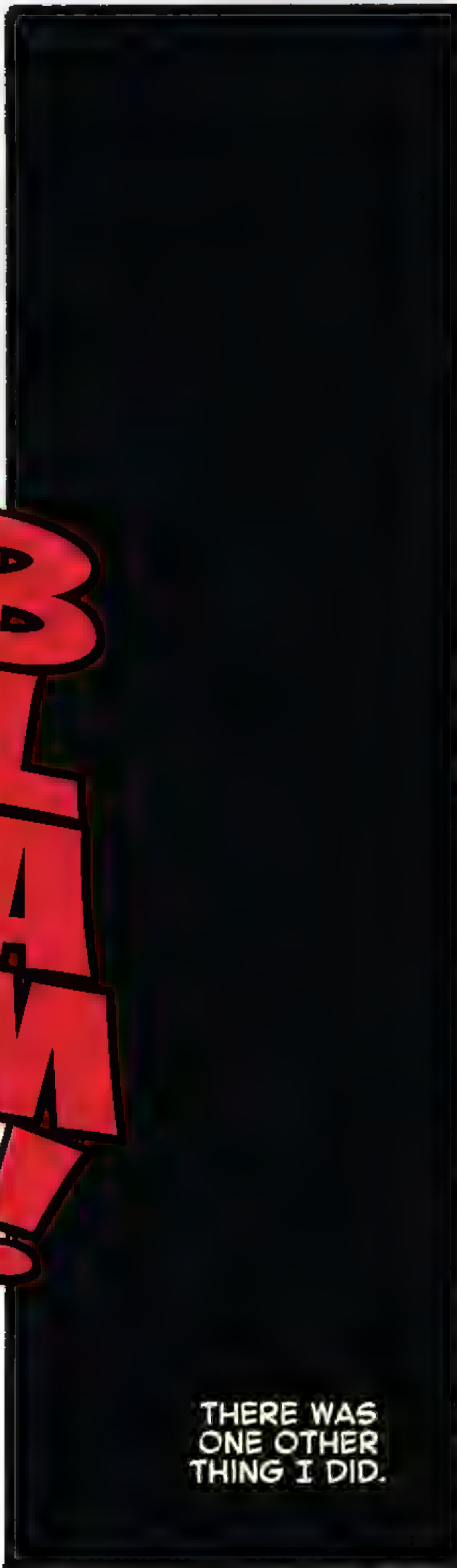
PLEASE...
DON'T
HURT ME...



PUT HIM
OUT OF HIS
MISERY.



BLAM!



THERE WAS
ONE OTHER
THING I DID.



I ALMOST FORGET ABOUT IT SOMETIMES. BECAUSE IT FELT SO MUCH LIKE A *DREAM*.

I GOT SUCKED THROUGH A PORTAL INTO THIS OTHER DIMENSION--



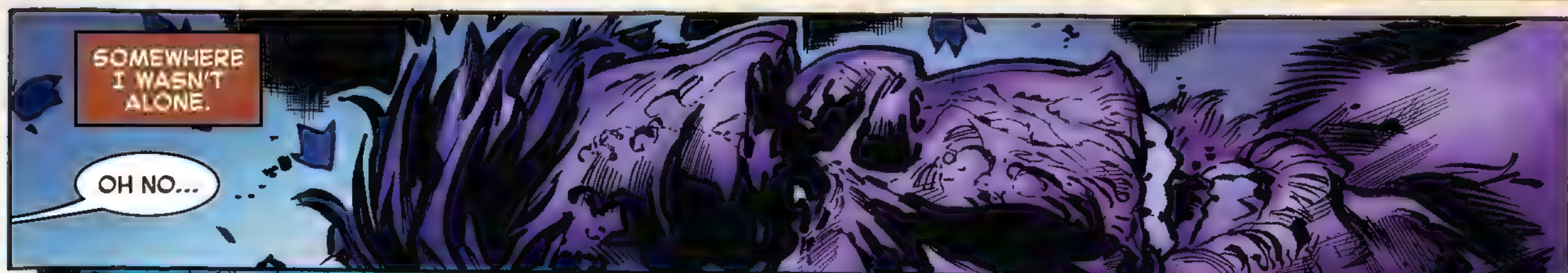
--WHERE **EVERYBODY** WAS AN 'APE

IT HAD SOME BIG PROBLEMS, BUT FOR ME--



--I NEVER FELT BETTER THAN WHEN I WAS JUST AROUND ALL OF THEM.

SOMEWHERE I WASN'T A FREAK.



SOMEWHERE I WASN'T ALONE.

OH NO...



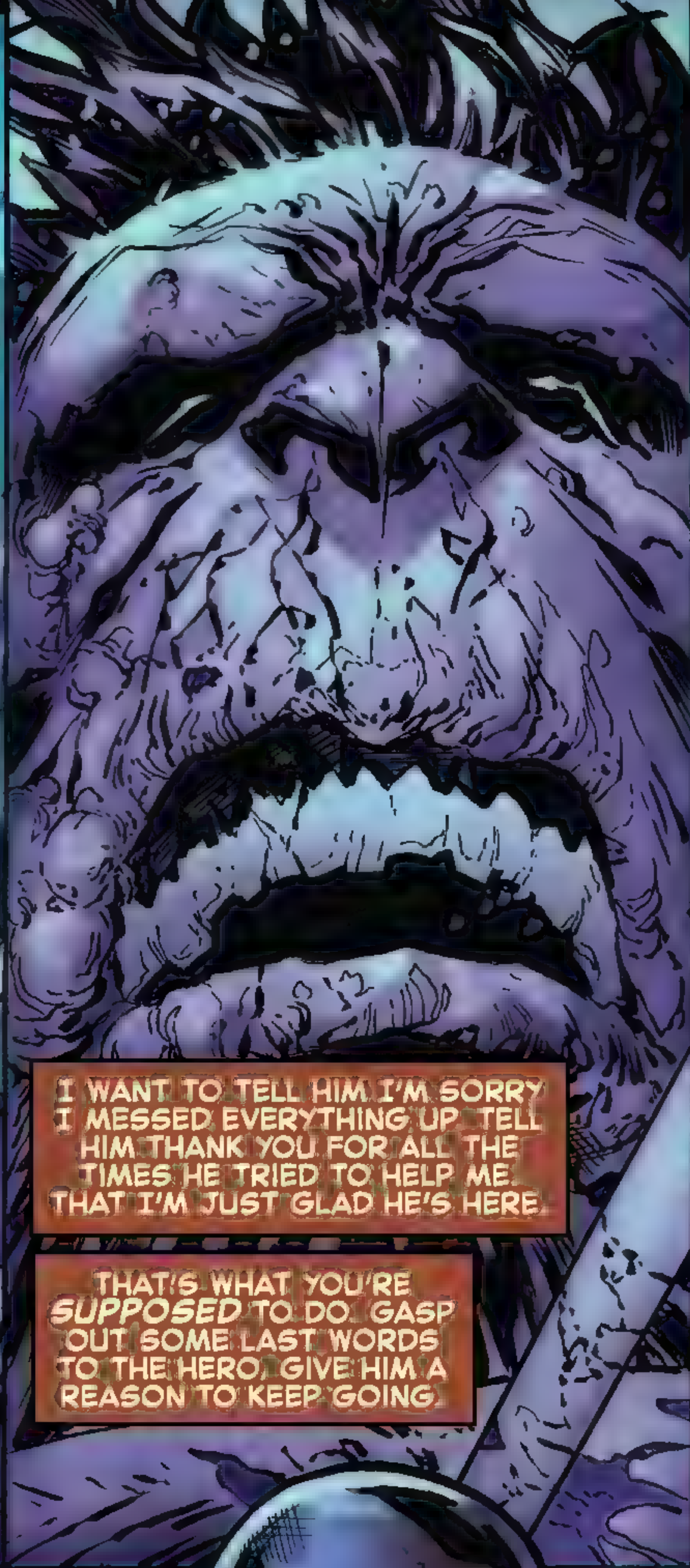
GIBBON!



GEEZ...
MARTY--
JUST--JUST
HOLD ON,
OKAY?

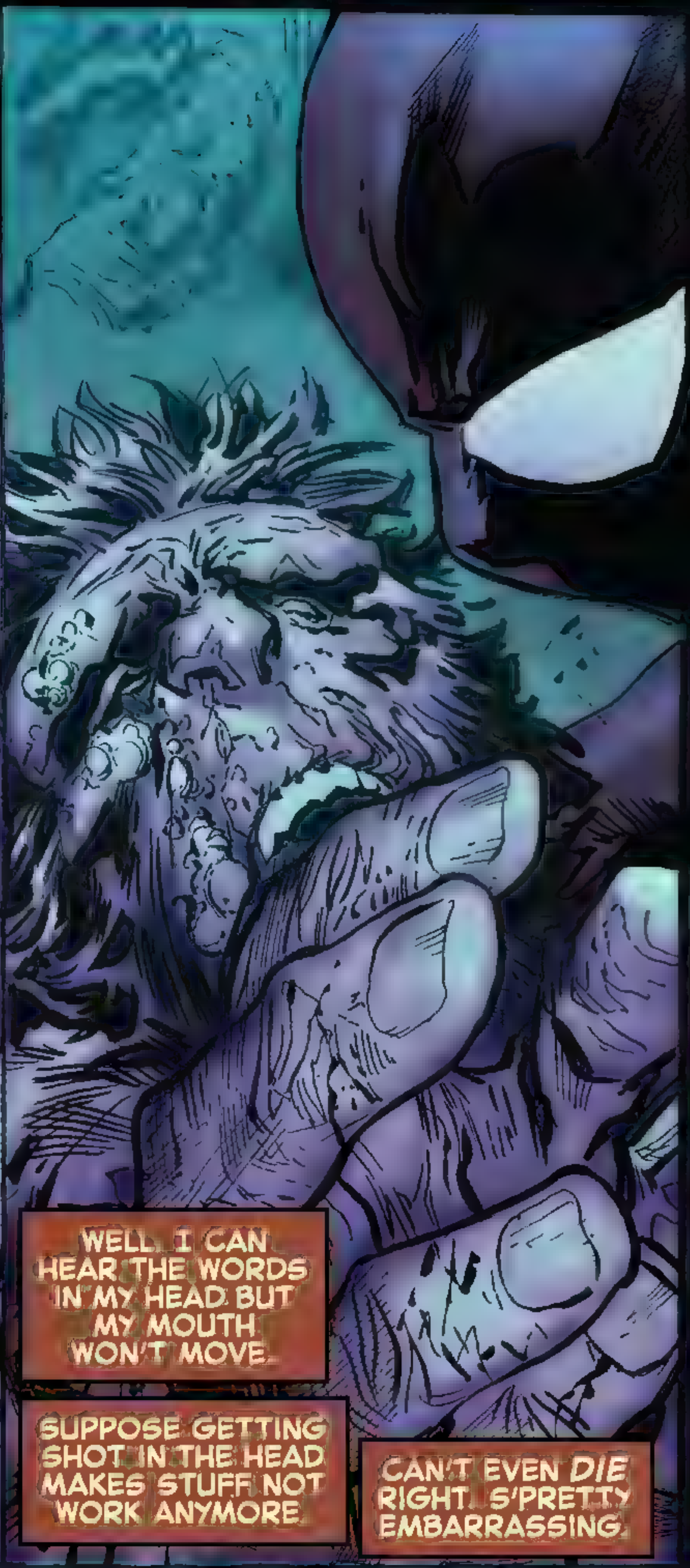
WHY
DIDN'T YOU
COME WITH
ME?

I WANT TO TRY
TO EXPLAIN IT
TO HIM.



I WANT TO TELL HIM I'M SORRY
I MESSED EVERYTHING UP. TELL
HIM THANK YOU FOR ALL THE
TIMES HE TRIED TO HELP ME.
THAT I'M JUST GLAD HE'S HERE.

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO DO. GASP
OUT SOME LAST WORDS
TO THE HERO. GIVE HIM A
REASON TO KEEP GOING.



WELL, I CAN
HEAR THE WORDS
IN MY HEAD BUT
MY MOUTH
WON'T MOVE.

SUPPOSE GETTING
SHOT IN THE HEAD
MAKES STUFF NOT
WORK ANYMORE.

CAN'T EVEN DIE
RIGHT. S'PRETTY
EMBARRASSING.



SO THERE WE ARE
I CAN'T TALK AND
HE CAN'T FIGURE
OUT WHAT TO SAY.

ALL THAT'S LEFT
IS TO SIT IN THIS
STUPID SILENCE.



WHILE
EVERYTHING
GETS
COLDER.

OH, WELL.
IT'S NOT
ALL BAD, I
GUESS.

AT LEAST
NOBODY'S
LAUGHING







IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER.

THE ANIMALS ARE GETTING RESTLESS.

THEY KNOW IT ISN'T SAFE HERE ANYMORE.

AND THEY'RE AFRAID.

I--I WANNA GO HOME...



CAN'T SAY I BLAME THEM.

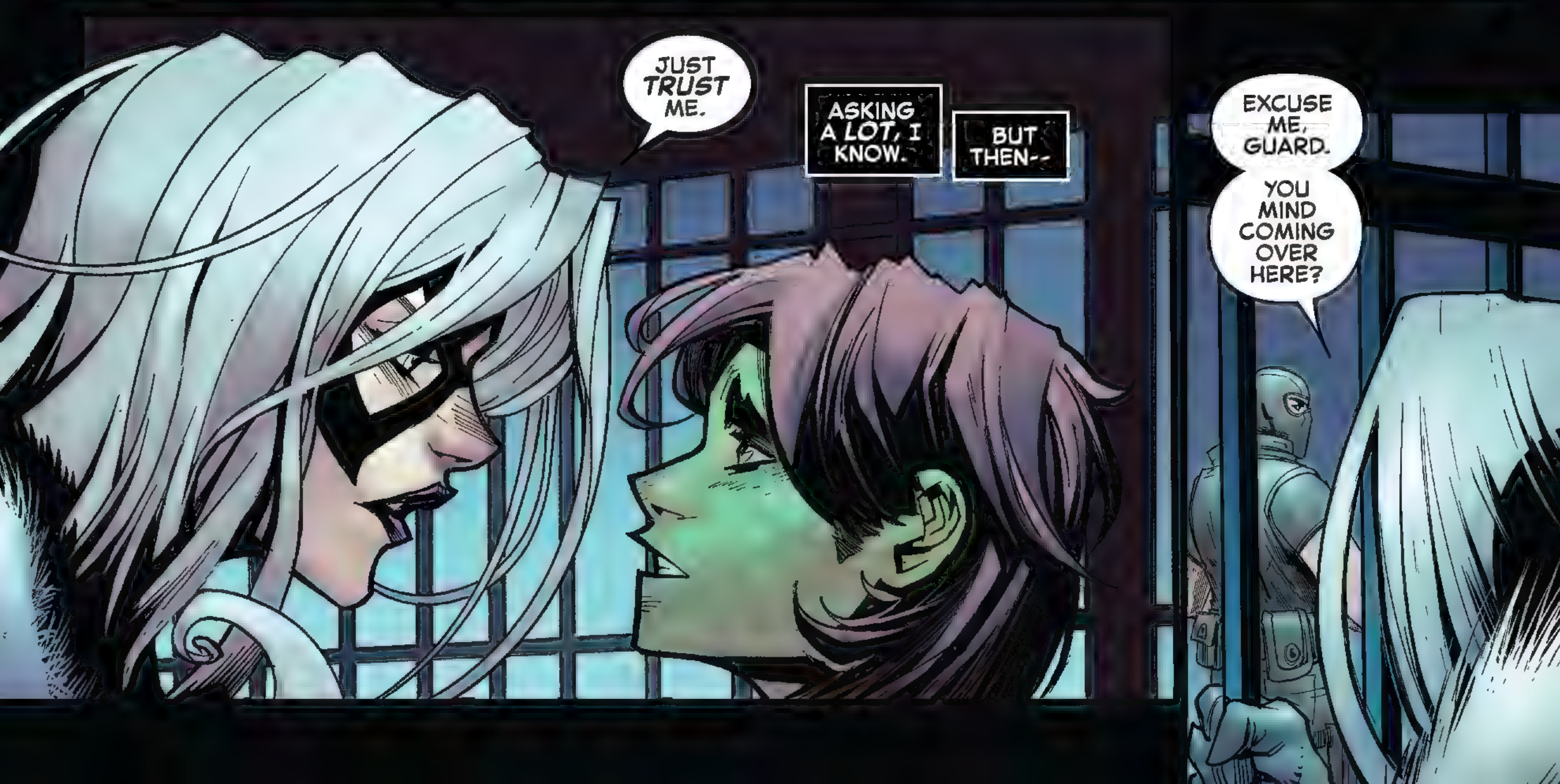
I'VE BEEN TRAPPED IN HERE WITH THIS KID, **BILLY CONNORS**, ALL NIGHT.

FOR BEING THE SON OF THE **LIZARD**, HE IS NOT HOLDING UP WELL.



BILLY, I NEED YOU TO BE **STRONG**, ALL RIGHT? I HAVE A **PLAN**.

Y-YOU DO? WHAT IS IT?



JUST TRUST ME.

ASKING A LOT, I KNOW.

BUT THEN--

EXCUSE ME, GUARD.

YOU MIND COMING OVER HERE?



--THESE THINGS CAN BE HARD TO EXPLAIN.

YOU *STILL* DO NOT SEE MY VISION FOR THIS, MY SON?

NO--IT'S NOT *THAT*, FATHER.



WHAT YOU HAVE DONE HERE...CAPTURING THESE PREDATORS, THESE *BEASTS*--THE *RHINO*, THE *SCORPION*, THE *SERPENTS*--SO MANY IT DEFIES IMAGINATION. WHEN YOU SHOWED ME ALL OF THEM, ASSEMBLED BACK IN AFRICA--

--IT MADE ME PROUD TO KNOW IT WAS YOUR *BLOOD* COURSEING THROUGH MY VEINS.



AND THEN WHEN I LEARNED OF YOUR GRAND PLAN--TO SET THEM LOOSE HERE, IN THE GRANDEST OF KILLING FIELDS, WHERE ALL THE WORLD COULD SEE THEIR FALL--

I WAS AWED BY THE SCOPE OF IT, THE AMBITION.

THIS WOULD TRULY BE YOUR *LEGACY*, I THOUGHT.

BUT THEN, INSTEAD OF TAKING WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS--





--YOU GIVE IT TO THEM?!

THESE FOOLS--THESE **PRETEND KILLERS**, THE VERY ONES WHO DEVASTATED YOUR KINGDOM--NOW YOU BESTOW UPON THEM THIS **GREAT HONOR**?



PLEASE, FATHER, DO NOT ALLOW THIS. LET US GO INTO THESE FORESTS **TOGETHER**, AS FATHER AND SON, AND MAKE THIS OUR **GREATEST HUNT**.

LET THEM SEE THE KRAVINOFF FAMILY NAME RESTORED THROUGH **BLOODSHED**. SHOW THEM WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF.



SHOW THEM WHAT **YOU** ARE CAPABLE OF.



NO...



NOT YET.

IT IS NOT YET MY TIME.



BUT SOON...

DEAD.

THE **GIBBON**--
THE POOR,
HELPLESS, ALWAYS
MISUNDERSTOOD
GIBBON.

HE'S
DEAD.

I TRIED TO TELL
HIM--TRIED TO **HELP**
HIM. BUT HE DECIDED
TO GO WITH THE
VULTURE INSTEAD.

I SUSPECT THAT
HAD SOMETHING
TO DO WITH HOW
HE ENDED UP LIKE
THIS. AND EVEN
WORSE--

--HE'S NOT THE **ONLY**
ONE. THE **WHOLE**
PARK IS LITTERED
WITH BODIES.

MAD-DOG.
GAZELLE. MANDRILL.
WHO KNOWS HOW
MANY MORE?

THESE HUNTERS
ARE **EVERYWHERE**,
AND SEEMINGLY
UNSTOPPABLE.

WHO
KNOWS--

--WHO'S
GONNA BE
NEXT?

BOOM!

YEE-HAW!

ANOTHER ONE
BITES THE
DUST!

OOF, THESE GUYS
ARE THE WORST--
AND I STILL HAVE
NO IDEA **WHAT**
THEY ARE.

WHOA, IS
THAT HIM? IS THAT
REALLY **SPIDER-**
MAN?

SHOULD
WE GET HIS
AUTOGRAPH?

OR MAYBE
WE TAKE A
SELFIE WITH HIS
CORPSE.

WOW,
EDGE LORD
MUCH?

WHO THE
HECK ARE
THESE GUYS?
OKAY, SPIDEY,
STAY DOWN
FOR A SEC--

--TRY TO
GET SOME
ANSWERS.

WELL, WHATEVER
WE DO, IT'LL HAVE TO BE
QUICK--I'M **STARVING**.
DID ARCADE SAY IF THE
BUFFET WAS STILL OPEN
DOWNSTAIRS?

I DUNNO, I
WAS JUST GONNA GET
ROOM SERVICE, RECHARGE.
THIS HEADSET'S A DREAM IN
TERMS OF THE CONTROL,
BUT MAN, IT GIVES YOU A
HEADACHE AFTER A
WHILE. RIGHT?

OKAY, NOW THIS IS
ADDING UP. HEADSETS,
TALKING ABOUT SOME
OFFSITE LOCATION--
THESE ARE REMOTE
DRONES--

HEY,
IS HE
AWAKE?

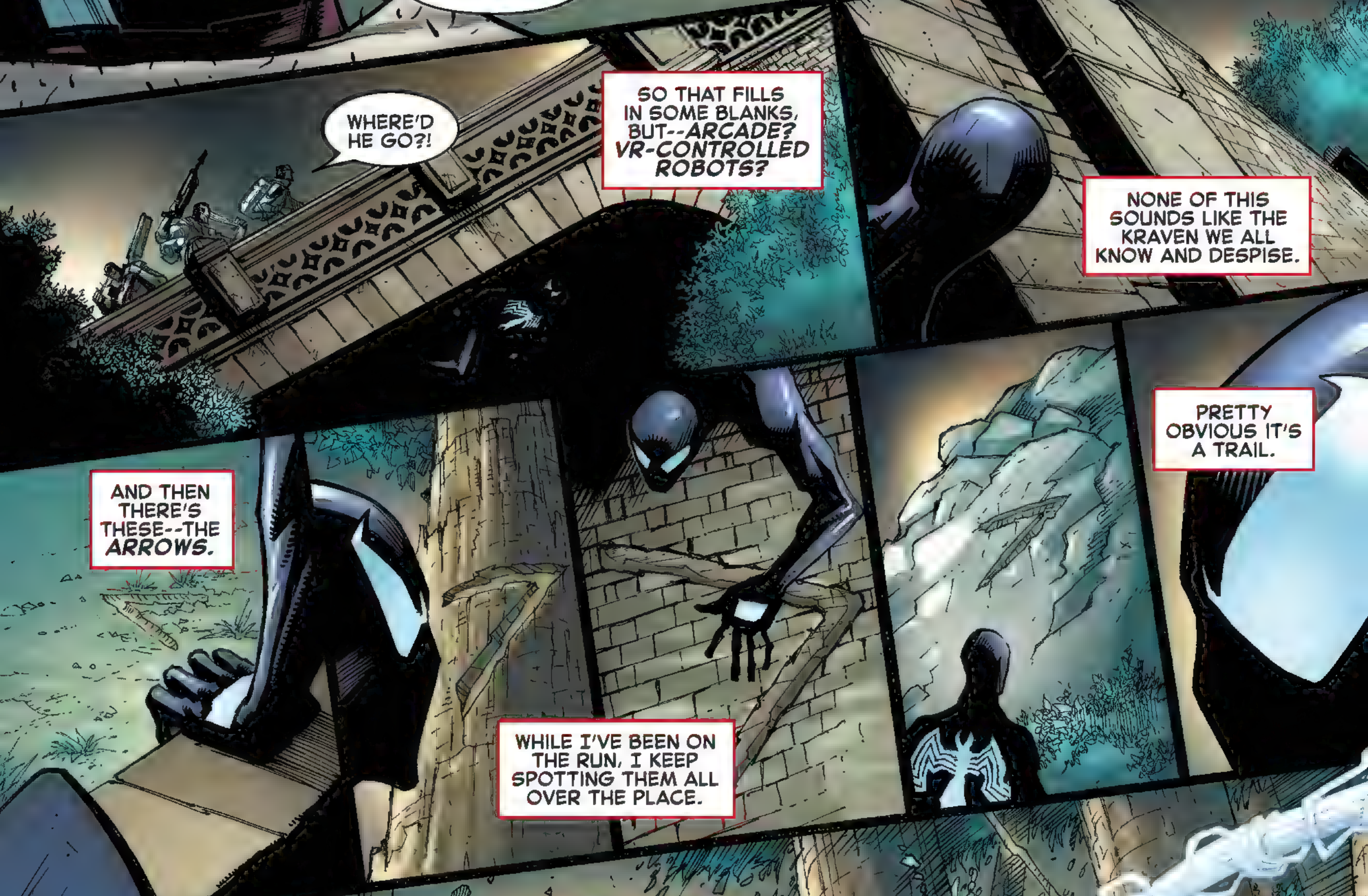
--PILOTED
BY IDIOTS.



HEY!

WHAT THE
#&%&?>

SORRY,
FELLAS, PARK'S
CLOSED!



WHERE'D
HE GO?!

SO THAT FILLS
IN SOME BLANKS,
BUT--ARCADE?
VR-CONTROLLED
ROBOTS?

NONE OF THIS
SOUNDS LIKE THE
KRAVEN WE ALL
KNOW AND DESPISE.

AND THEN
THERE'S
THESE--THE
ARROWS.

WHILE I'VE BEEN ON
THE RUN, I KEEP
SPOTTING THEM ALL
OVER THE PLACE.

PRETTY
OBVIOUS IT'S
A TRAIL.



SO I FOLLOW
THEM, LOOKING
FOR THE SOURCE
OF ALL THIS.
UNFORTUNATELY--

--LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO FOUND THEM.

HE'S RIGHT. WE'RE ALL JUST HUDDLING UP IN HERE? REALLY? WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THOSE HUNTER ROBOT THINGS FIND US?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENS-- SAME THING THAT HAPPENED TO MAN-BULL.

AND IGUANA.

#\$%& THIS, I'M GETTING OUTTA HERE--

SIDDOWN. HEAR THE MAN OUT.

AGREED. YOU WEREN'T THERE WITH US, OUT IN STRAWBERRY FIELDS. HE *SAVED* ALL OF US. WHATEVER HE HAS TO SAY, YOU'RE GONNA WANNA HEAR IT.

THIS IS STUPID.

I APPRECIATE THE ENDORSEMENT, SERPENTS, BUT THERE'S NO NEED FOR THREATS.

AND THAT'S WHEN I REALIZE THOSE WEREN'T JUST ARROWS. THEY WERE CALLING CARDS. THE LETTER V--

--FOR
VULTURE.

YOU'RE
ALL CORRECT
TO BE
AFRAID.

LORD KNOWS
I WAS WHEN I
WOKE UP IN THIS
PLACE.

WE SUDDENLY
FOUND OURSELVES
HOUNDED AND CHASED
BY THESE...**HUNTERS**.
SEEMINGLY UNSTOPPABLE
AS THEY PROVED
THEMSELVES
TO BE--

STRONGER THAN
THE MIGHTY
STREGRON.

FASTER
THAN
THE BLACK
RACER.

MORE
CUNNING
THAN THE
OWL.

YES, I'M
NOT ASHAMED
TO ADMIT I WAS
TERRIFIED--

--UNTIL
I MET THE
GIBBON.

WHO?

JUST SOME
NOBODY.

OWES ME
MONEY.

NOW FOR ALL OF YOU
WHO KNEW AND LOVED
HIM, IT IS MY SAD DUTY
TO INFORM YOU THE
GIBBON IS NO LONGER
WITH US. HE DIED IN
MY ARMS.

BUT NOT IN VAIN! THAT
IS WHY I BROUGHT YOU
HERE. TO TELL HIS
STORY.



"IT BEGAN WITH THE **STAMPEDE**, AS WE WERE BEING CHASED FOR OUR VERY LIVES.

GIBBON, COME WITH ME-- TOGETHER WE CAN FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE!

I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, DEAR FRIEND--



--BUT I CHOOSE TO STAY AND FIGHT!

"NEVER BEFORE HAVE I SEEN SUCH COURAGE.



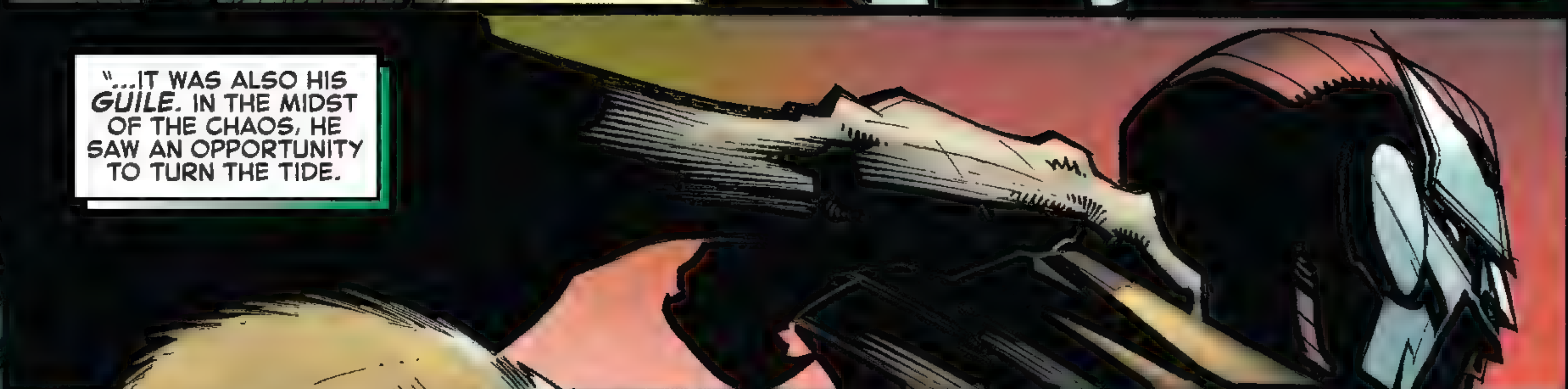
"I WATCHED AS THAT MAJESTIC BEAST FOUGHT LIKE A GOD, TURNING THE TABLES ON OUR WOULD-BE APEX PREDATORS--

--AND EXPOSING THEM FOR THE COWARDS THEY ARE.



COME BACK HERE, YOU--

"BUT IT WASN'T JUST HIS **COURAGE** AND HIS **STRENGTH** THAT AMAZED ME...

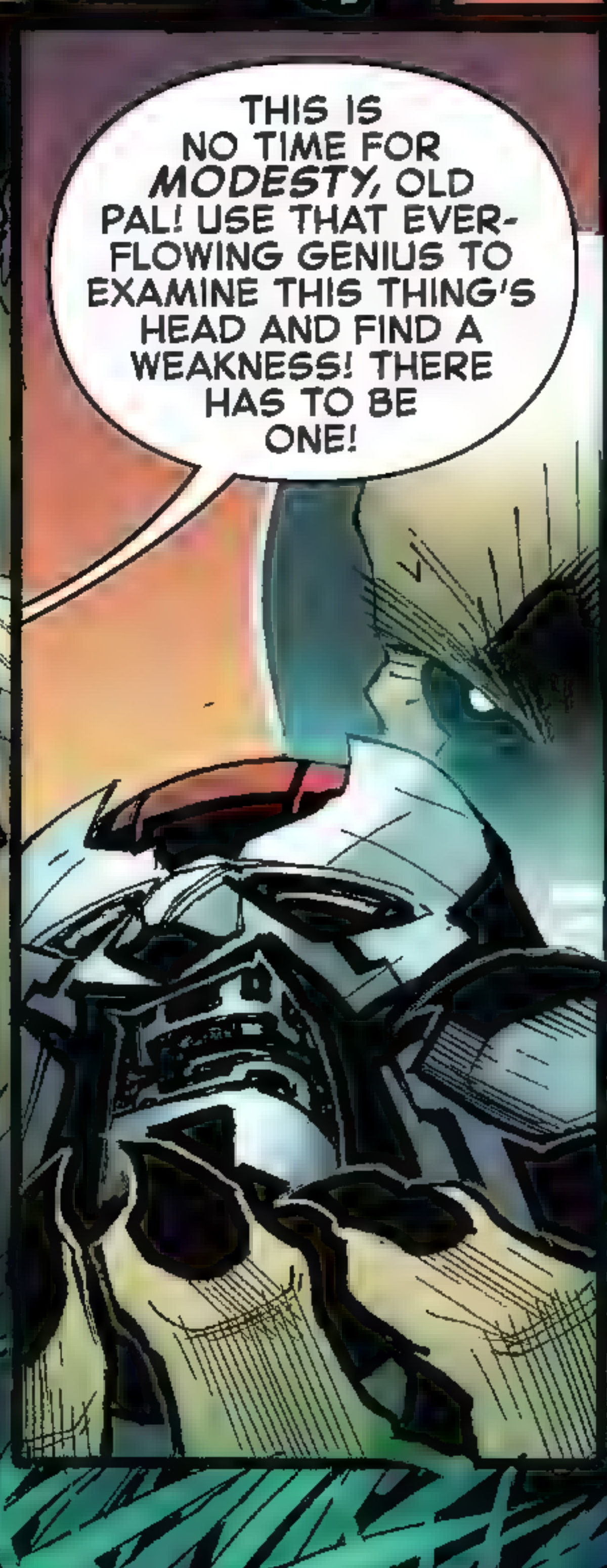


"...IT WAS ALSO HIS **GUILE**. IN THE MIDST OF THE CHAOS, HE SAW AN OPPORTUNITY TO TURN THE TIDE.



VULTURE! YOU'RE A BRILLIANT ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, AREN'T YOU? ONE OF THE FINEST WHO EVER LIVED, RIGHT?

WELL, I--



THIS IS NO TIME FOR **MODESTY**, OLD PAL! USE THAT EVER-FLOWING GENIUS TO EXAMINE THIS THING'S HEAD AND FIND A WEAKNESS! THERE HAS TO BE ONE!



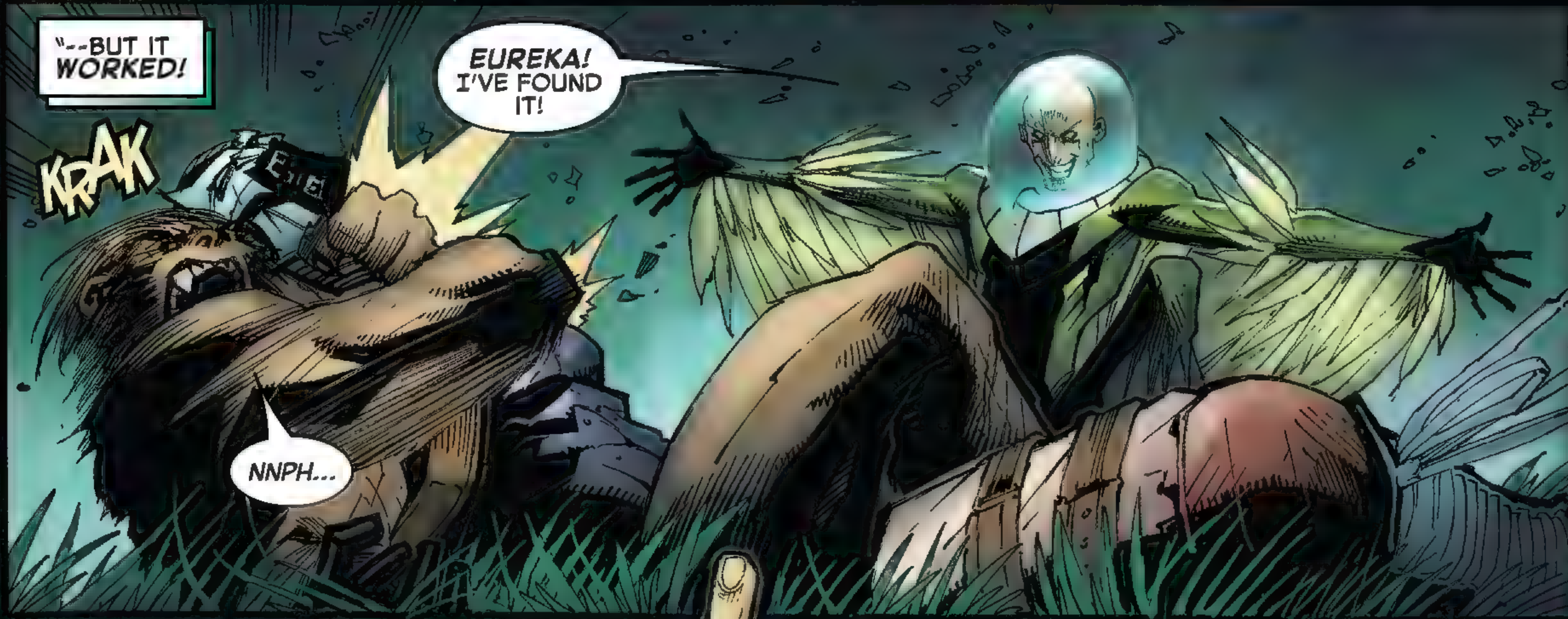
I--I'LL TRY!

YOU CAN DO IT, CHUM!

"AND SO I TOILED, APPLYING EVERYTHING I KNEW ABOUT ADVANCED ROBOTICS TO THE TASK. I WORKED AS FAST AS I COULD.



"THE HUNTER KEPT FIGHTING, THOUGH-- STABBING, KICKING, WRESTLING--TRYING ANYTHING TO BREAK FREE. HE KNEW WHAT WAS AT STAKE. GIBBON SUSTAINED TERRIBLE INJURIES HOLDING HIM THERE--



"--BUT IT WORKED!

EUREKA! I'VE FOUND IT!

KRAK

NNPH...



"GIBBON HAD SACRIFICED EVERYTHING. BUT BEFORE HE LEFT US, HE GAVE ME A MISSION."

NOW THAT WE KNOW, YOU HAVE FIND THE OTHERS--YOU HAVE TO LEAD THEM. THEY NEED YOU, VULTURE-- ONLY YOU CAN GUIDE THE WAY...TO FREEDOM...



"...TO VICTORY!"

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

WOOOOW--



NOW TELL THE ONE ABOUT HOW YOU CURED **SMALLPOX**, GRANDPA.

EVERYBODY ALWAYS LOVES THAT ONE.

SPIDER-MAN!



LISTEN TO ME, ALL OF YOU--I GET THAT MOST OF YOU HATE ME AND HAVE TRIED TO KILL ME, BUT--I STILL FEEL OBLIGATED TO GIVE YOU SOME FREE ADVICE--THAT GUY UP ON STAGE? HE'S LYING.

I MEAN, COME ON, IT'S THE **VULTURE**. HOWEVER MEAN, DUPLICITOUS AND DASTARDLY YOU FANCY YOURSELF, I PROMISE YOU HE'S **TWICE** AS BAD.



WHADDAYOU CARE?!

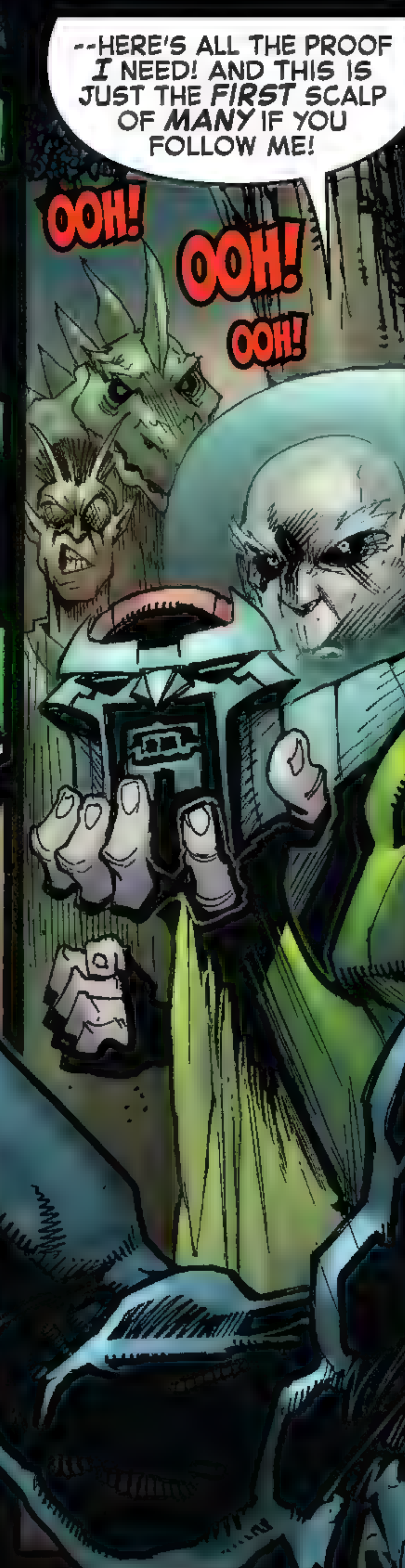
LOOK, I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY MORE PEOPLE DIE. YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON AN **ESCAPE PLAN**. FIND SOME WAY TO BRING DOWN THAT FORCE FIELD.

DON'T LISTEN TO SOME MEGALOMANIACAL HAS-BEEN READ YOU HIS FAN FICTION. HE ALREADY GOT GIBBON KILLED--YOU COULD BE NEXT. I MEAN, COME ON--



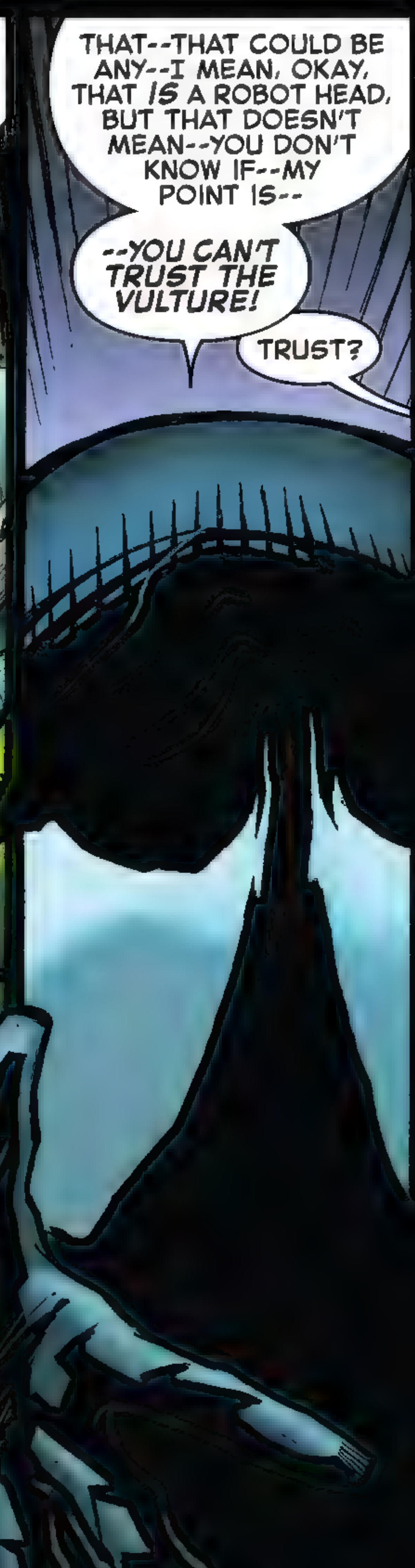
--NOTICE HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY PROOF HE CAN TAKE THESE THINGS DOWN?

AH, SO IT'S PROOF YOU SEEK, EH, WALL-CRAWLER? VERY WELL, THEN--



--HERE'S ALL THE PROOF I NEED! AND THIS IS JUST THE **FIRST SCALP** OF MANY IF YOU FOLLOW ME!

OOH!
OOH!
OOH!



THAT--THAT COULD BE ANY--I MEAN, OKAY, THAT **IS** A ROBOT HEAD, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN--YOU DON'T KNOW IF--MY POINT IS--

--YOU CAN'T TRUST THE **VULTURE**!

TRUST?

A comic book page featuring Rhino and Spider-Man. Rhino is a large, grey, rhinoceros-like creature with a single prominent horn and a menacing expression. Spider-Man is in his iconic red and blue suit, shown from the chest up. The background is a city street with buildings and a crowd of people. The scene is set during the day with bright lighting.

YOU DARE
TO SPEAK
OF *TRUST*,
SPIDER-MAN?

OHBOY.

I KNEW THIS WAS
GONNA COME
BACK AND BITE ME.

WHEN TASKMASTER AND BLACK ANT
WENT AFTER RHINO, I TRIED TO HELP
HIM. BUT WHEN AUNT MAY GOT
CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE, I HAD TO
GET *HER* TO SAFETY--WHICH MEANT
LETTING *HIM* GET CAUGHT!

I GUESS
HE'S STILL
MAD.

YOU
BETRAYED
ME!

YOU
ABANDONED
ME! I AM ONLY
TRAPPED IN THIS
PLACE BECAUSE
OF YOU!

RHINO,
I'M SORRY--
ACK--INNOCENT
LIVES WERE
AT RISK--

WHICH
MADE MY LIFE
WORTHLESS?!

PERHAPS
I CAN SAY
THE SAME
OF YOURS.

RHINO!
THAT'S
ENOUGH!



NO ONE
HATES THE WALL-
CRAWLER MORE THAN
I DO, BUT HE IS NOT
OUR ENEMY
RIGHT NOW.

WE ARE IN
A WAR FOR OUR
VERY *SURVIVAL*,
AND THERE ARE
ONLY *TWO*
SIDES--



--THE
HUNTERS
AND THE
HUNTED.

IF
SPIDER-MAN
HERE CHOOSES TO
COWER AND HIDE, I
WILL NOT PUNISH HIM
FOR IT. BUT FOR
THE *REST*
OF YOU--



--I HAVE
A WAY TO DESTROY
THOSE WHO WOULD
DESTROY *US*.

BUT WE MUST
STAND TOGETHER,
AND *TOGETHER*, WE
MUST TAKE THE FIGHT
TO THEM.



WHO'S
WITH
ME?!

YEAH!



WELL, IF YOU WERE
WONDERING HOW THINGS
COULD GET WORSE, NOW
YOU KNOW...

...HOW'S
THAT FOR
LUCK?

AH, THERE
YOU ARE.
JUST THE MAN
I WANTED
TO SEE.

WHAT CAN
I DO YA FOR,
SWEETNESS?

IT'S THE
KID--DO YOU
THINK WE CAN GET
HIM A **SWEATER**
OR SOMETHING?
HE'S COLD-
BLOODED.

YOU REALLY
EXPECT ME TO
BELIEVE THAT'S
WHY YOU WANT ME
TO COME OVER
THERE? I'VE SEEN
YOU LOOKING
AT ME.

OKAY,
BUSTED.

WELL,
DON'T THINK
IT'S GONNA WORK.
I'M NOT GONNA
FALL FOR THE OLD
SEDUCTRESS
ACT...

NO,
NO, YOU
GOT IT ALL
WRONG.

SEE, I'VE GOT
THIS **THING**. CAME
THROUGH MAGIC,
LOST IT, GOT IT BACK
THROUGH SCIENCE.
IT HAS TO DO WITH
TYCHOKINESIS AND
PROBABILITY FIELDS.
COMPLICATED
STUFF.

BUT
BASICALLY IT
MEANS I CAN GIVE
ANYONE I SEE
BAD LUCK.

SO, YEAH,
I'VE BEEN
STARING AT
YOU PRETTY
HARD.

HH.
INTERESTING.
WHAT **KIND**
OF **BAD**
LUCK?

OH, YOU
KNOW, SLIPPING
ON A BANANA PEEL,
GUN JAMMING, THE
LOCK ON THE CAGE
BREAKING...

WELL, HATE
TO DISAPPOINT,
BUT THE LOCK ON
YOUR CAGE LOOKS
JUST FINE
TO ME.

NO--
--NOT
OUR
CAGE.



OKAY, MAYBE SHOULD'VE TOLD THE PETRIFIED LIZARD KID TO CLOSE HIS EYES BEFORE THE GUARD GOT MAULED BY A SNOW LEOPARD.



~~7~~SIGH LISTEN TO ME, KIDDO. I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE MY DAD WAS THE TOUGHEST, SMARTEST GUY IN THE WORLD. HE WOULD ALWAYS BE THERE TO PROTECT ME--

--UNTIL HE WASN'T. NOT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT TO, OR BECAUSE HE DIDN'T LOVE ME, HE JUST-- COULDN'T.

--HOW TO DO IT FOR MYSELF.

IT'S JUST *US* NOW, BILLY. WE GOTTA DO THIS FOR OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER--

"--BECAUSE NOBODY'S COMING TO SAVE US."

I THOUGHT WE'D LOST YOU FOREVER!

WHEN THAT HAPPENED, I REALIZED ALL THOSE TIMES HE DID THAT FOR ME, HE WAS TRYING TO SHOW ME--

COULDN'T LEAVE YET, ARCADE--

--SEEING AS THE JOB WASN'T DONE.

YOU KNOW, TASKMASTER, THIS IS WHY WE'VE ALWAYS WORKED TOGETHER SO WELL OVER THE YEARS-- YOUR SENSE OF PROFESSIONALISM.

YEAH. THAT AND YOUR RATES. I EXPECT TO BE PAID *DOUBLE* HERE.

OF COURSE, OF COURSE, LEAST I CAN DO.



SAY HELLO
TO THE
LIZARD.

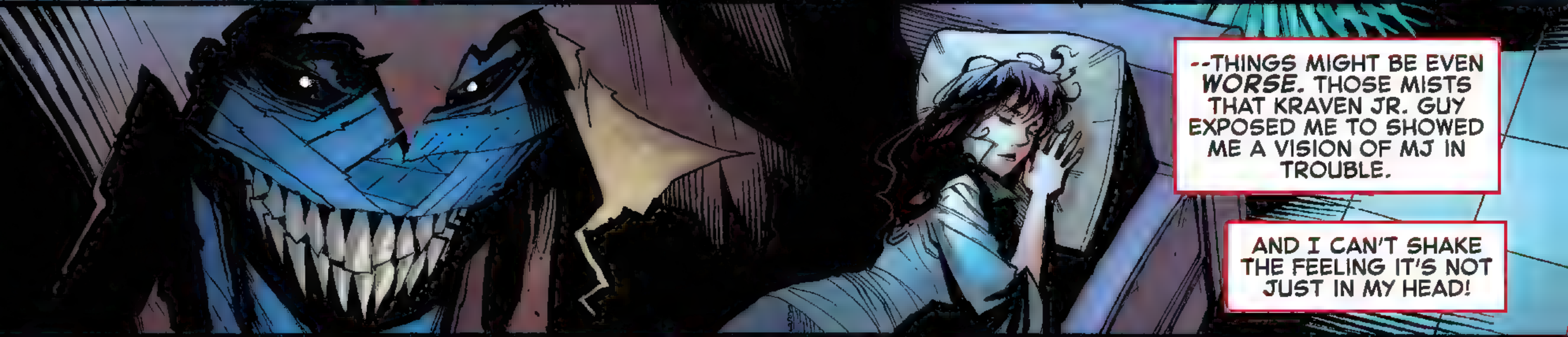


I HAVE TO
GET OUT OF
THIS PLACE.



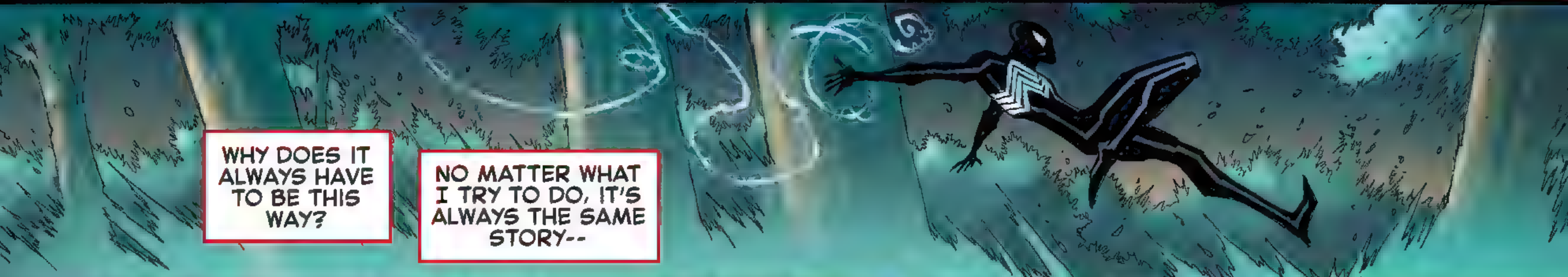
BILLY CONNORS
AND BLACK CAT
ARE IN HERE
SOMEWHERE,
TRAPPED.

AND ON THE
OUTSIDE--



--THINGS MIGHT BE EVEN
WORSE. THOSE MISTS
THAT KRAVEN JR. GUY
EXPOSED ME TO SHOWED
ME A VISION OF MJ IN
TROUBLE.

AND I CAN'T SHAKE
THE FEELING IT'S NOT
JUST IN MY HEAD!



WHY DOES IT
ALWAYS HAVE
TO BE THIS
WAY?

NO MATTER WHAT
I TRY TO DO, IT'S
ALWAYS THE SAME
STORY--



--GOOD PEOPLE
SUFFER--



FOUND
YA. NOW
ABOUT THAT
SELFIE...

--WHILE THE
BAD ONES
JUST NEVER
LET UP.

YOU
AGAIN?!



YOU
THINK THIS
IS FUN?!

YOU
WANNA HUNT
SOMETHING?!

YOU
WANNA KILL
SOMETHING
SO BAD?!

HAVE TO
ADMIT, THAT
FELT GOOD--

WOULDN'T
DO THAT
IF I WERE
YOU.

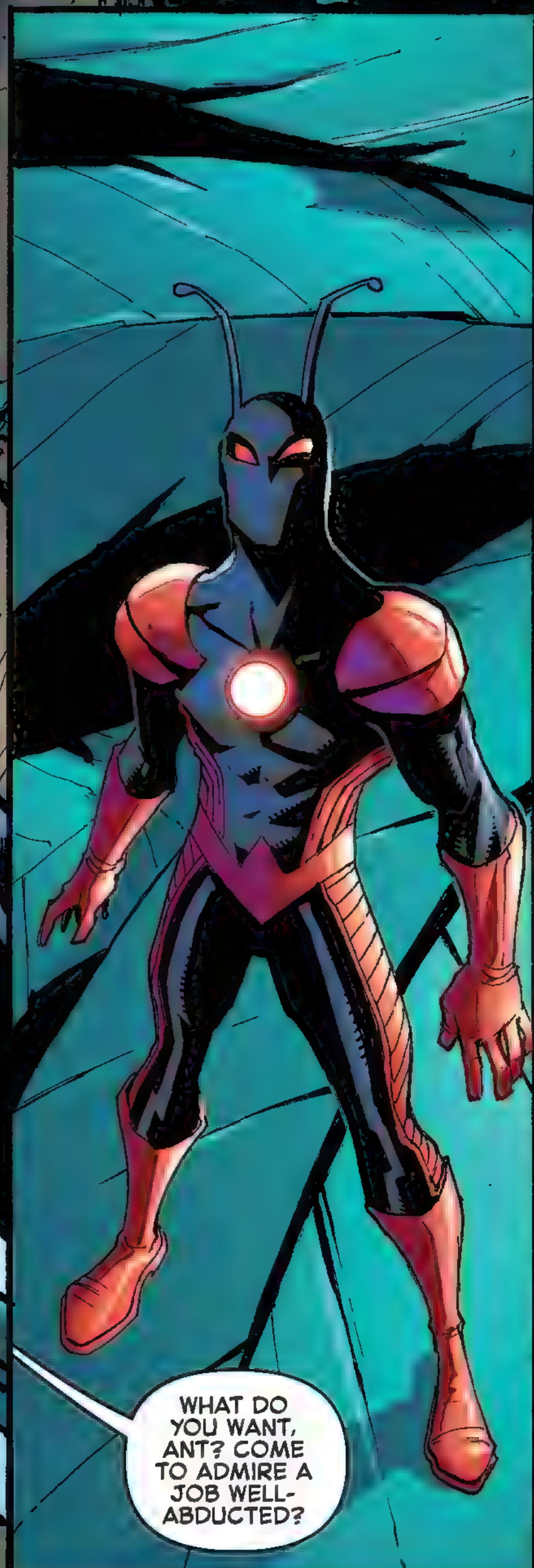
WELL, WHY
DON'T YOU
TRY IT OUT ON
ME NOW.



HEYA,
SPIDEY.

BLACK ANT!
ONE OF THE
MERCENARY GOONS
THAT STUCK US
ALL IN HERE TO
BEGIN WITH!

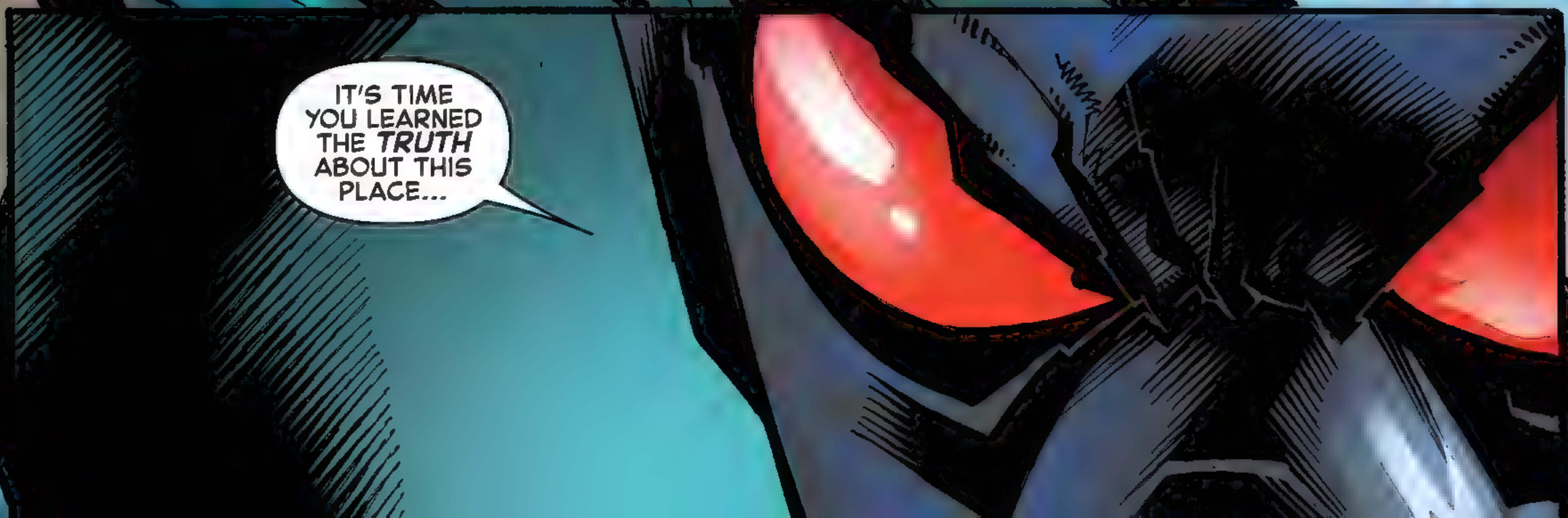
BUT WHAT'S HE
DOING INSIDE
THE PARK NOW?
AND WHY IS HE...



WHAT DO
YOU WANT,
ANT? COME
TO ADMIRE A
JOB WELL-
ABDUCTED?

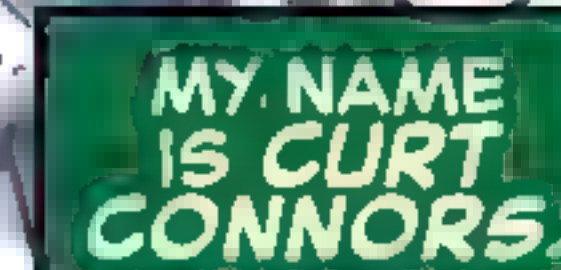
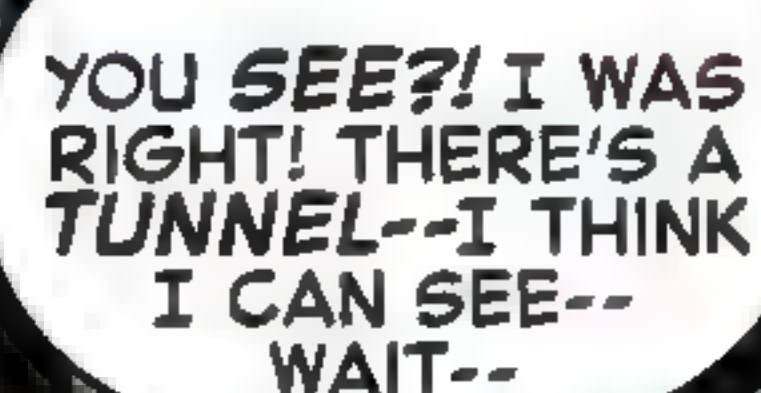
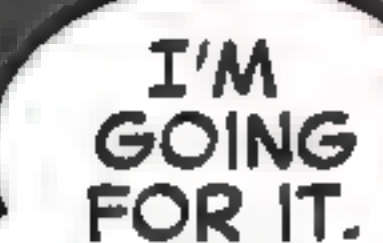
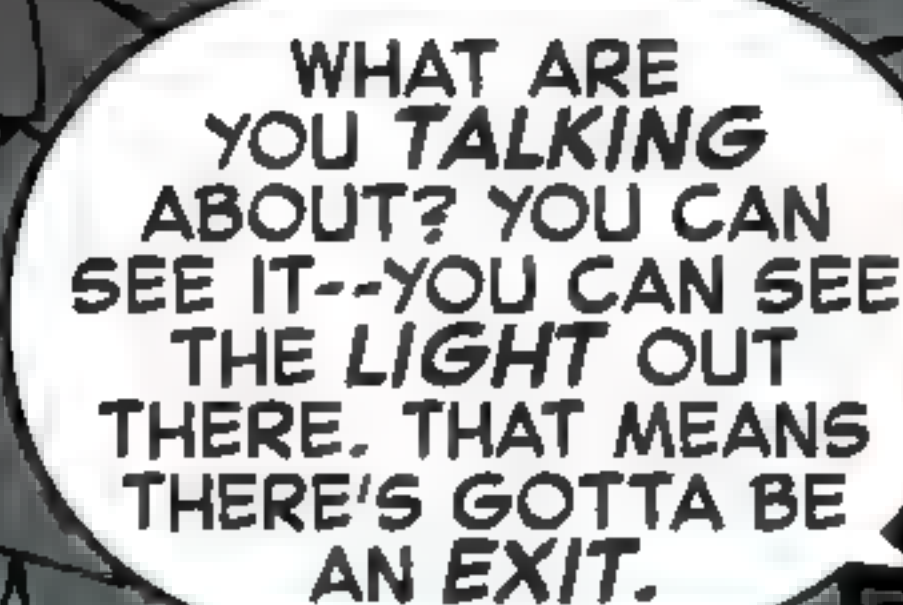
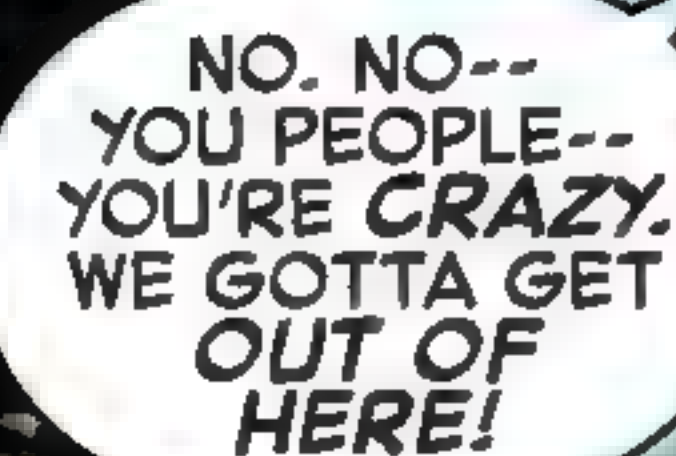
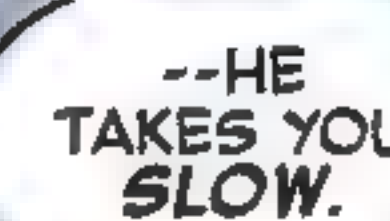
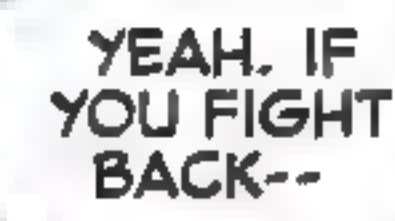
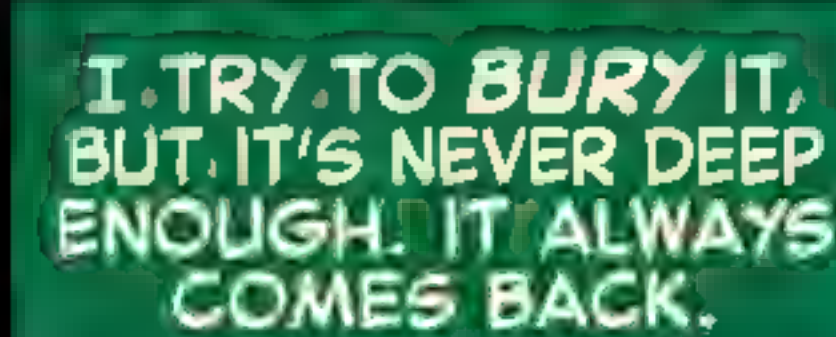


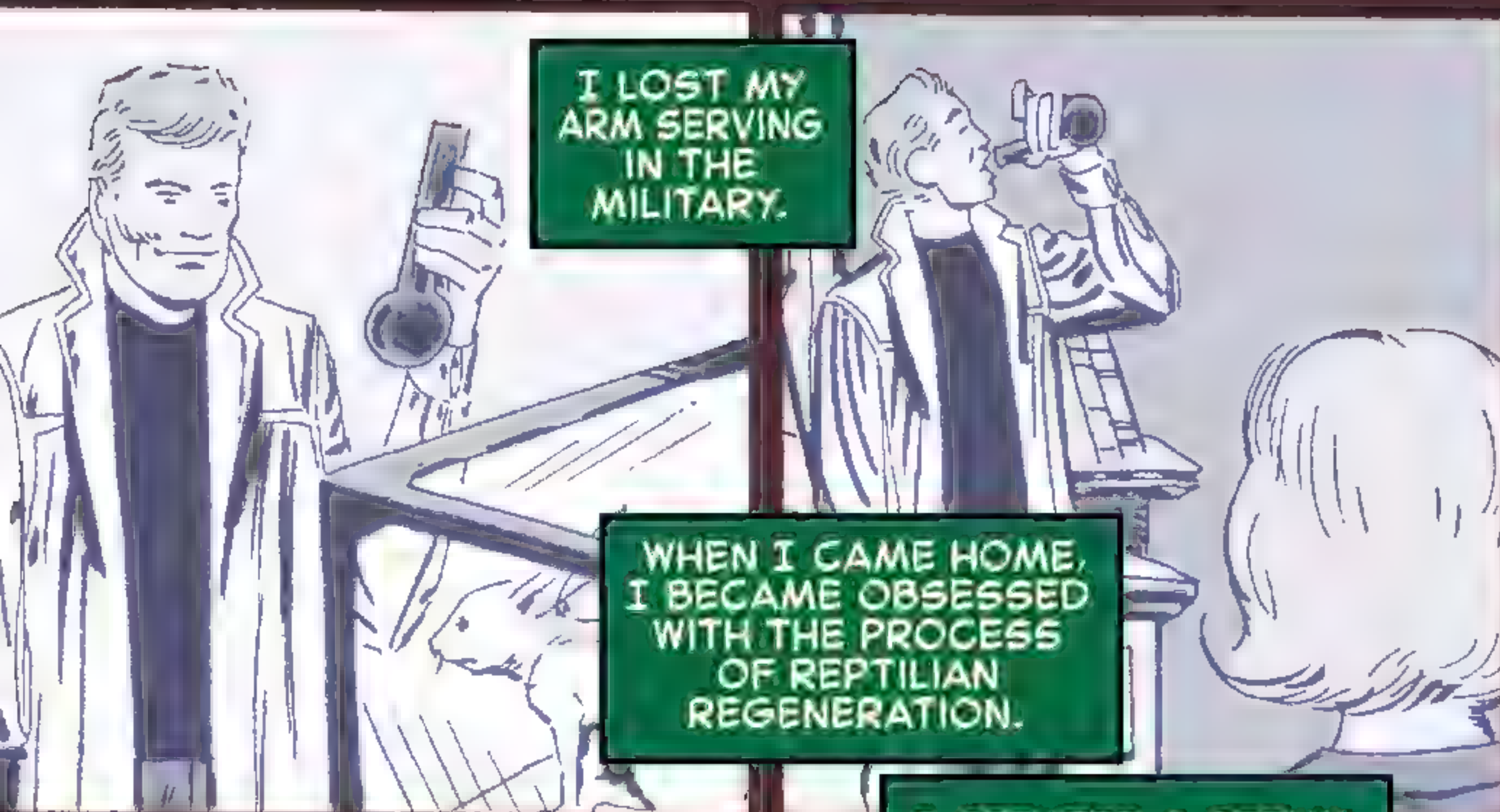
JUST
TRYING TO STOP
YOU FROM DOING
SOMETHING YOU'LL
REGRET.



IT'S TIME
YOU LEARNED
THE **TRUTH**
ABOUT THIS
PLACE...



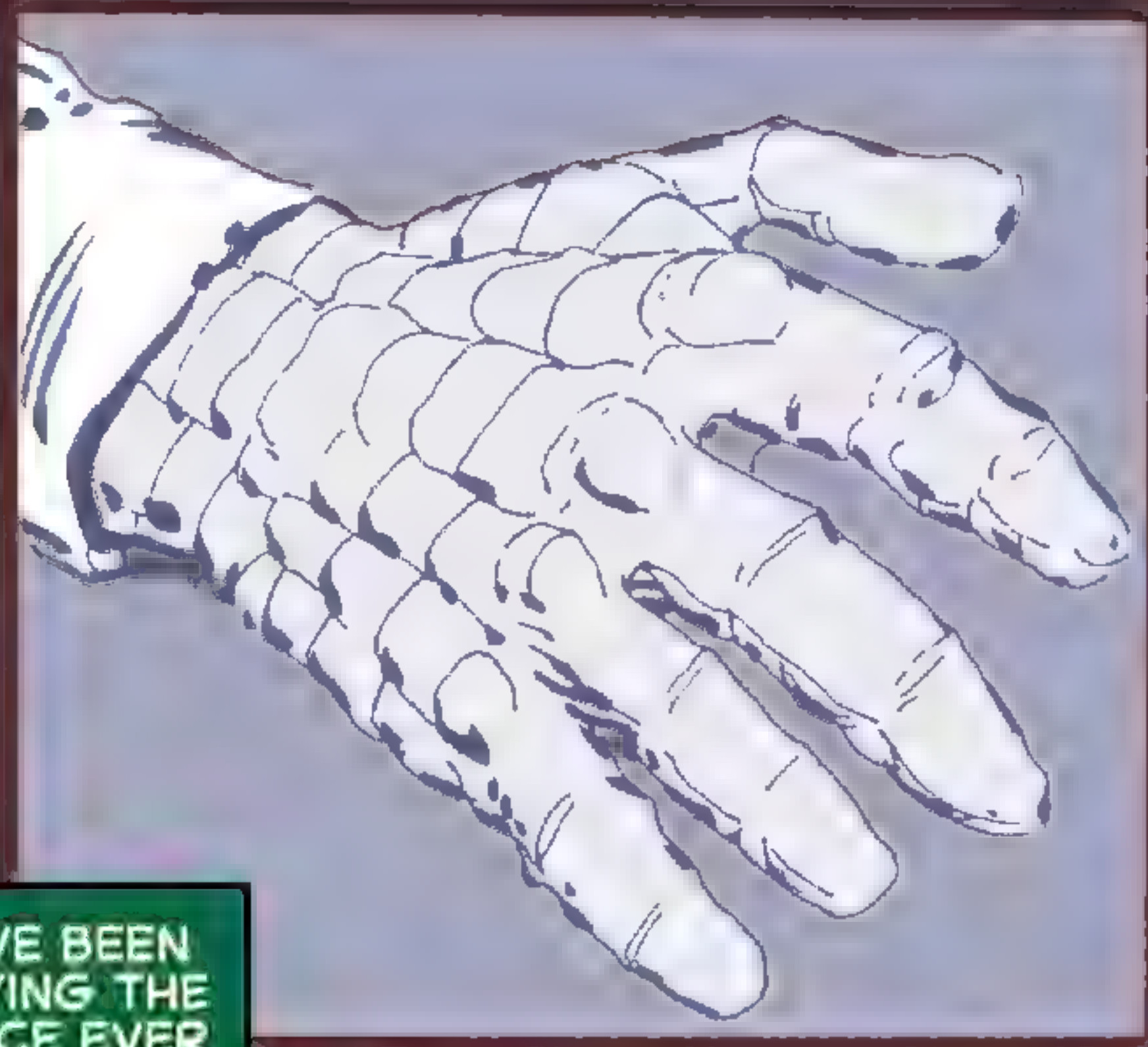




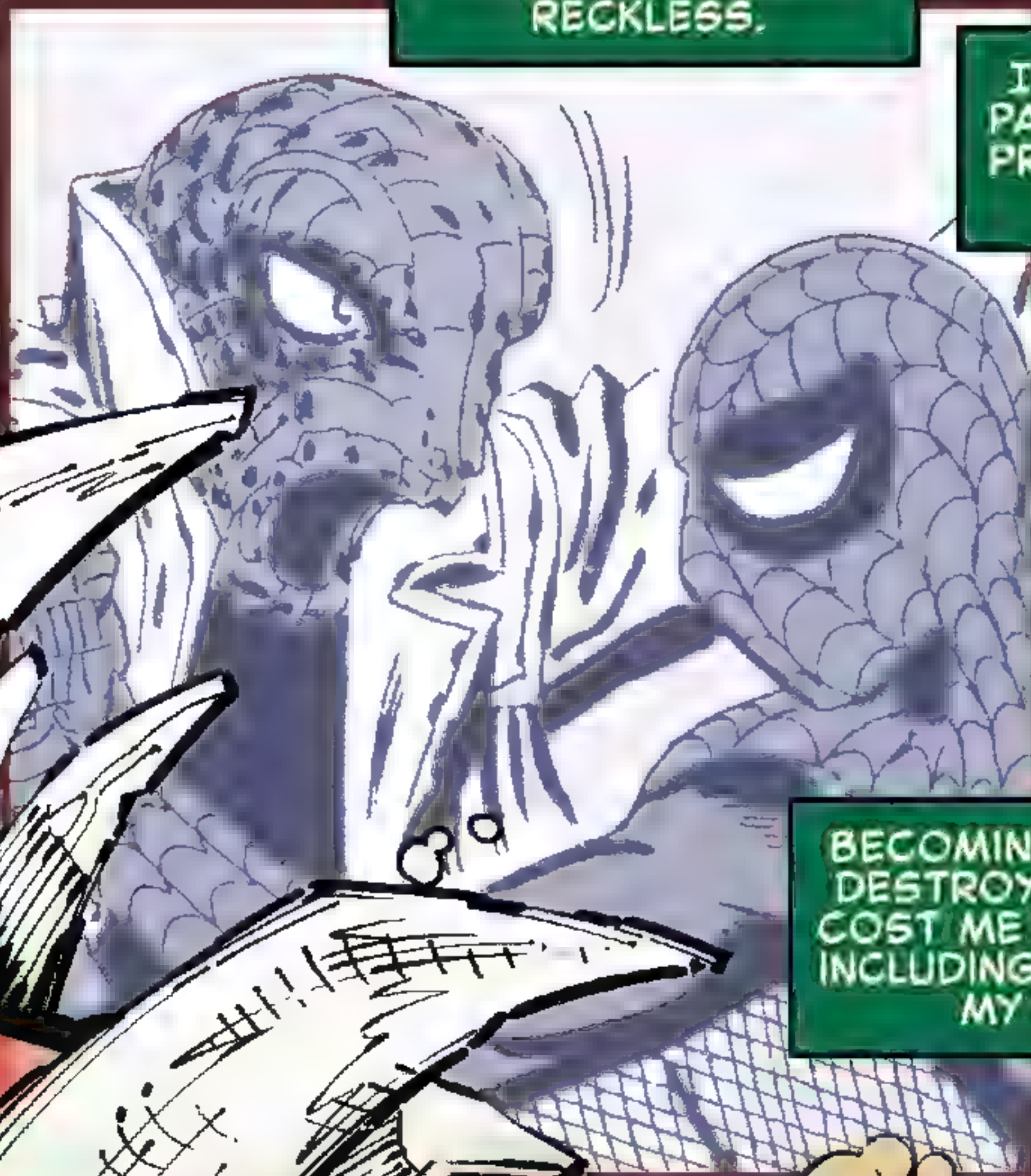
I LOST MY
ARM SERVING
IN THE
MILITARY.

WHEN I CAME HOME,
I BECAME OBSESSED
WITH THE PROCESS
OF REPTILIAN
REGENERATION.

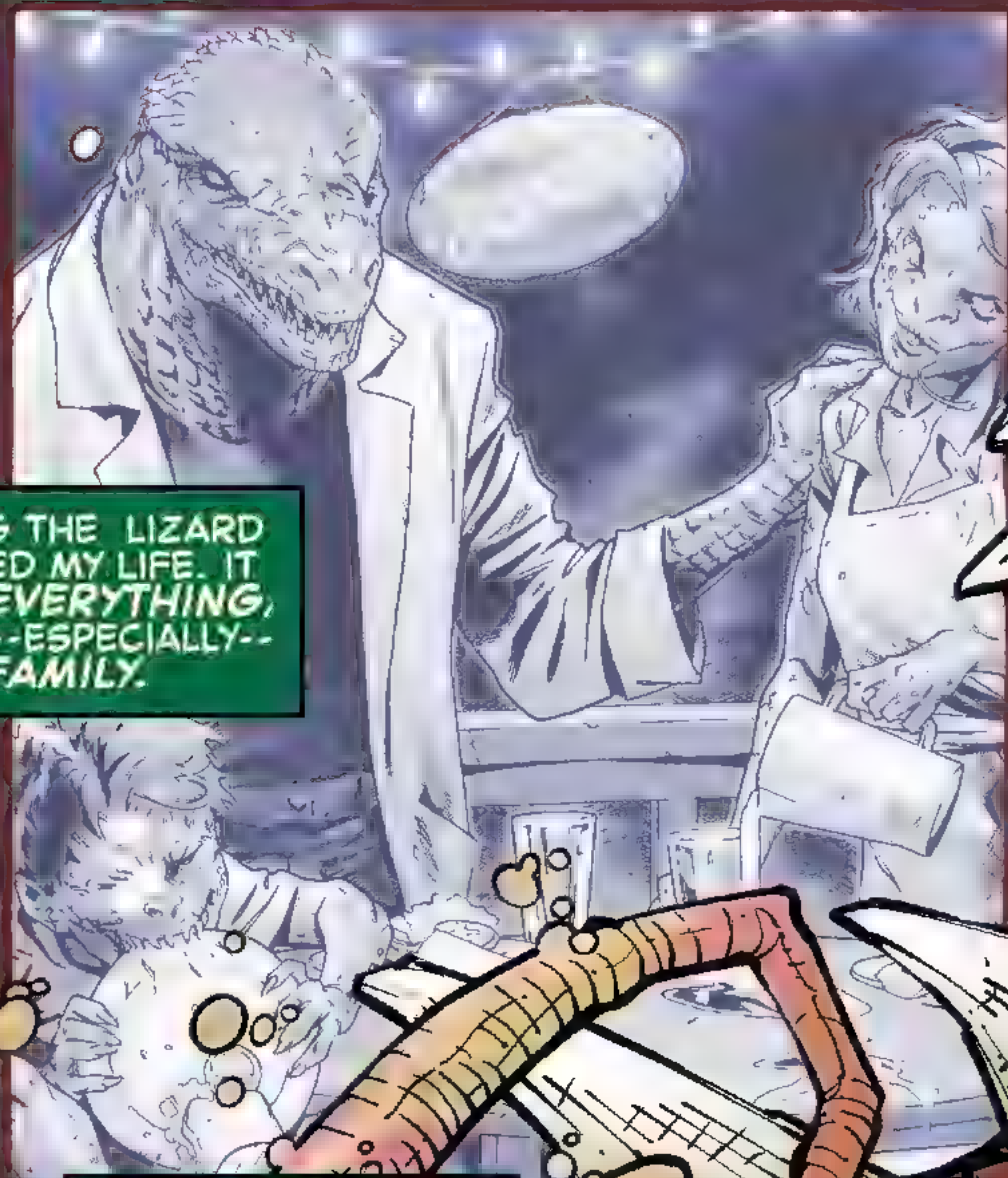
I CREATED A SERUM
AND TESTED IT ON
MYSELF. ARROGANT.
RECKLESS.



I'VE BEEN
PAYING THE
PRICE EVER
SINCE.



BECOMING THE LIZARD
DESTROYED MY LIFE. IT
COST ME EVERYTHING,
INCLUDING--ESPECIALLY--
MY FAMILY.



UNTIL IT DIDN'T. I
WAS GIVEN A
SECOND CHANCE.
BUT EVEN THAT
CAME AT A COST...



TO KEEP MY FAMILY
ALIVE, I HAD TO INJECT
THEM WITH THE LIZARD
SERUM AS WELL.

SINCE THEN
THEY'VE HAD TO LIVE
HIDDEN HERE IN THE
SEWERS.

IT HASN'T
BEEN EASY
FOR THEM.

HE'S GONE...
I SSSSTILL CAN'T
BELIEVE HE'SSS
GONE...

MY SON, BILLY, TOOK
IT HARDEST AND RAN
AWAY FROM HOME.



PEOPLE WERE
ABOUT AS KIND AND
TOLERANT OF HIM
AS I'D EXPECTED.

IN THE MIDST OF THE CHAOS
HE WAS SNATCHED UP BY A
COUPLE OF MERCENARIES
WHO HAD BEEN ON AN
ABDUCTION SPREE ACROSS
THE CITY IN RECENT WEEKS.

AND I COULD BLAME
THEM FOR WHERE WE
ARE NOW. I COULD
BLAME THE OUTSIDE
WORLD. BUT THE
TRUTH IS--

--ALL OF
THIS IS MY
FAULT.

DON'T
WORRY,
MARTHA.
I'LL FIND
HIM--





--IF
IT'SSS
THE LASSST
THING I
DO.

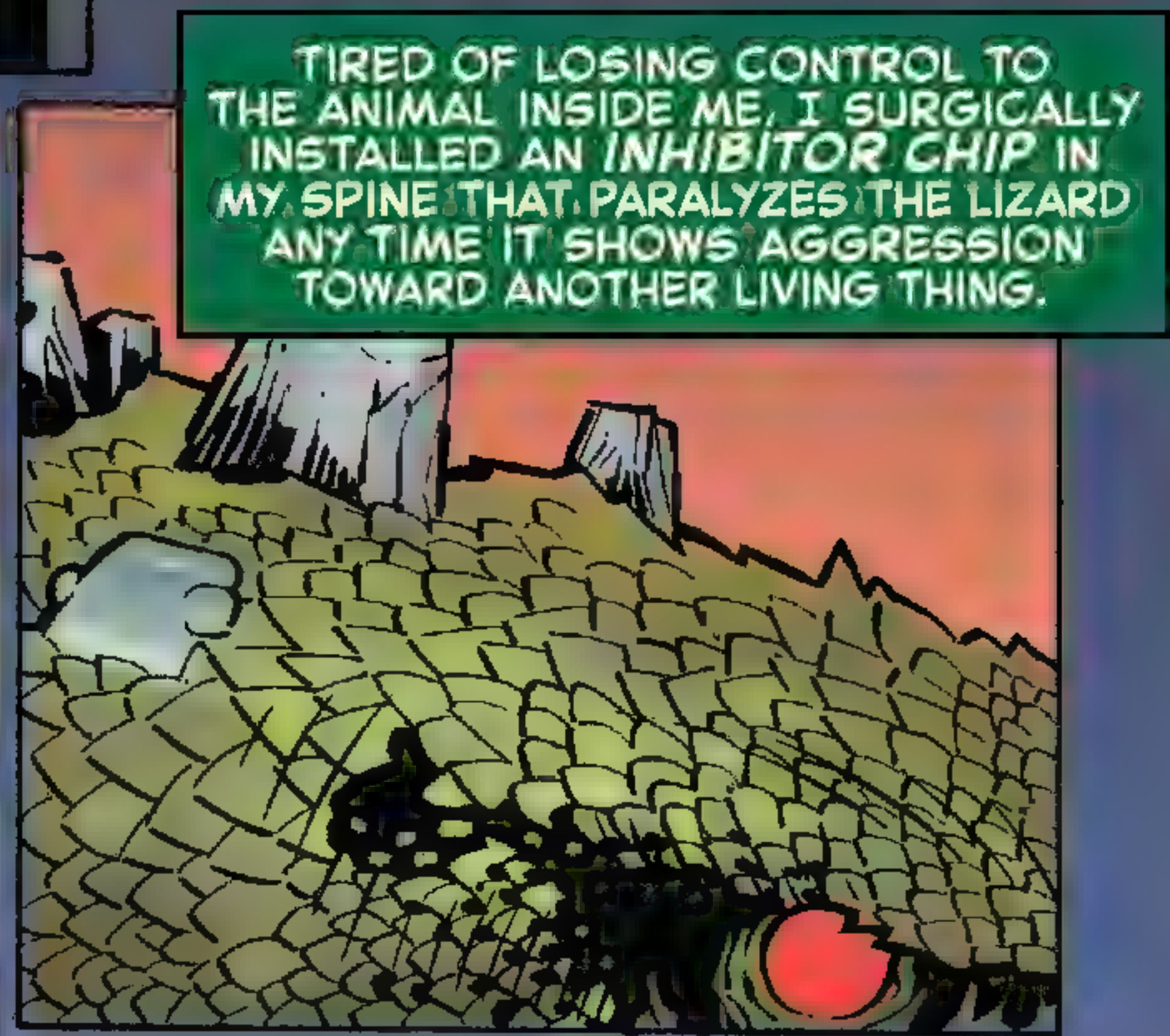


BE
CAREFUL,
CURT--

--YOU
KNOW YOU
CAN'T PROTECT
YOURSSSELF!

AND SHE'S
RIGHT--

--BUT I ONLY
HAVE MYSELF
TO BLAME FOR
THAT TOO.



TIRED OF LOSING CONTROL TO
THE ANIMAL INSIDE ME, I SURGICALLY
INSTALLED AN *INHIBITOR CHIP* IN
MY SPINE THAT PARALYZES THE LIZARD
ANY TIME IT SHOWS AGGRESSION
TOWARD ANOTHER LIVING THING.

THANKFULLY, I DON'T
NEED THE CLAWS OR
THE FANGS TONIGHT--

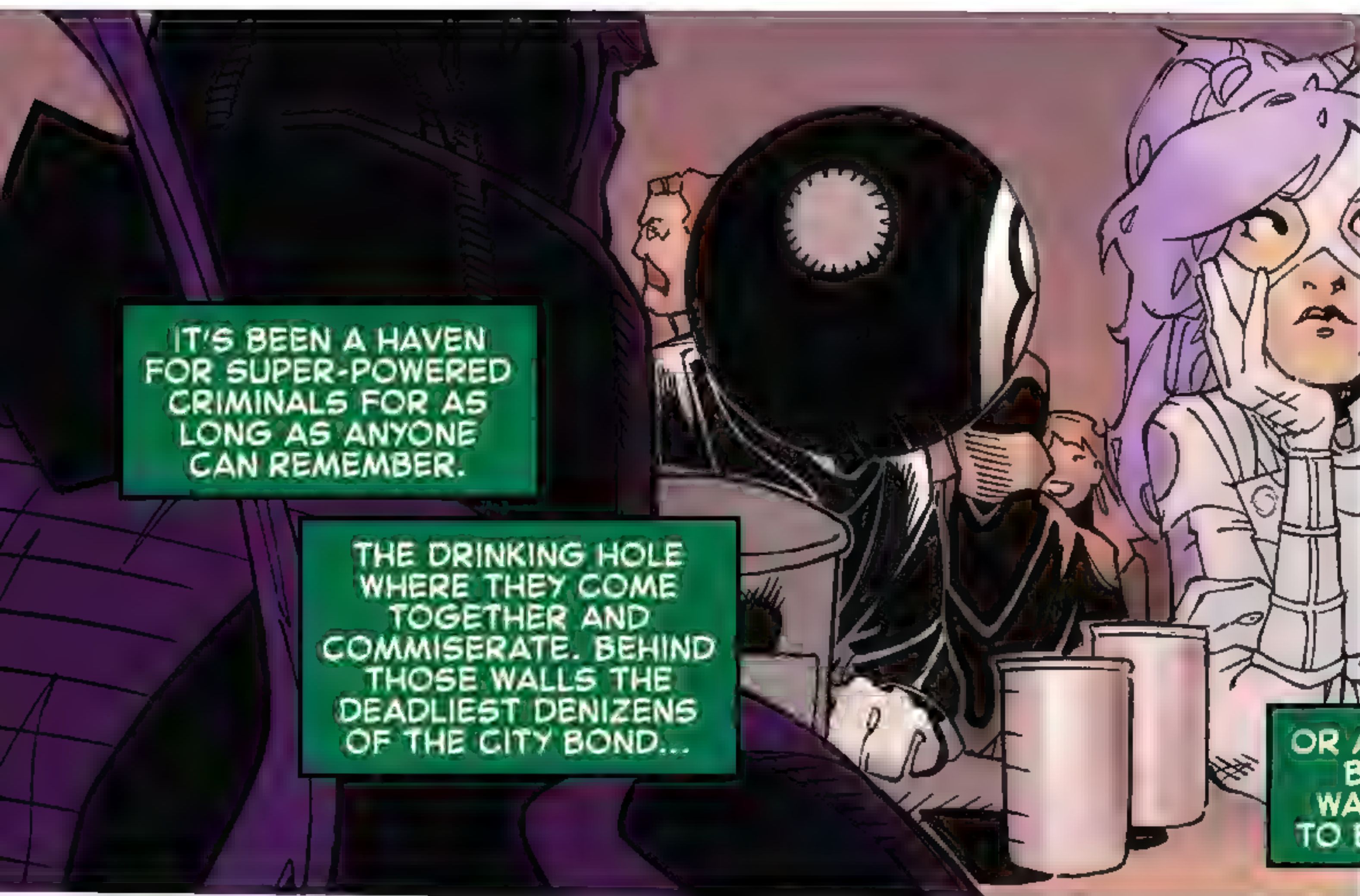
--I JUST NEED
ITS NOSE.

THE MEN WHO TOOK MY
SON TRIED TO ABDUCT
ME AS WELL, AMBUSHING
ME IN MY CLASSROOM.

THEY FAILED THANKS
TO SPIDER-MAN
COMING TO THE
RESCUE, BUT MORE
IMPORTANTLY--

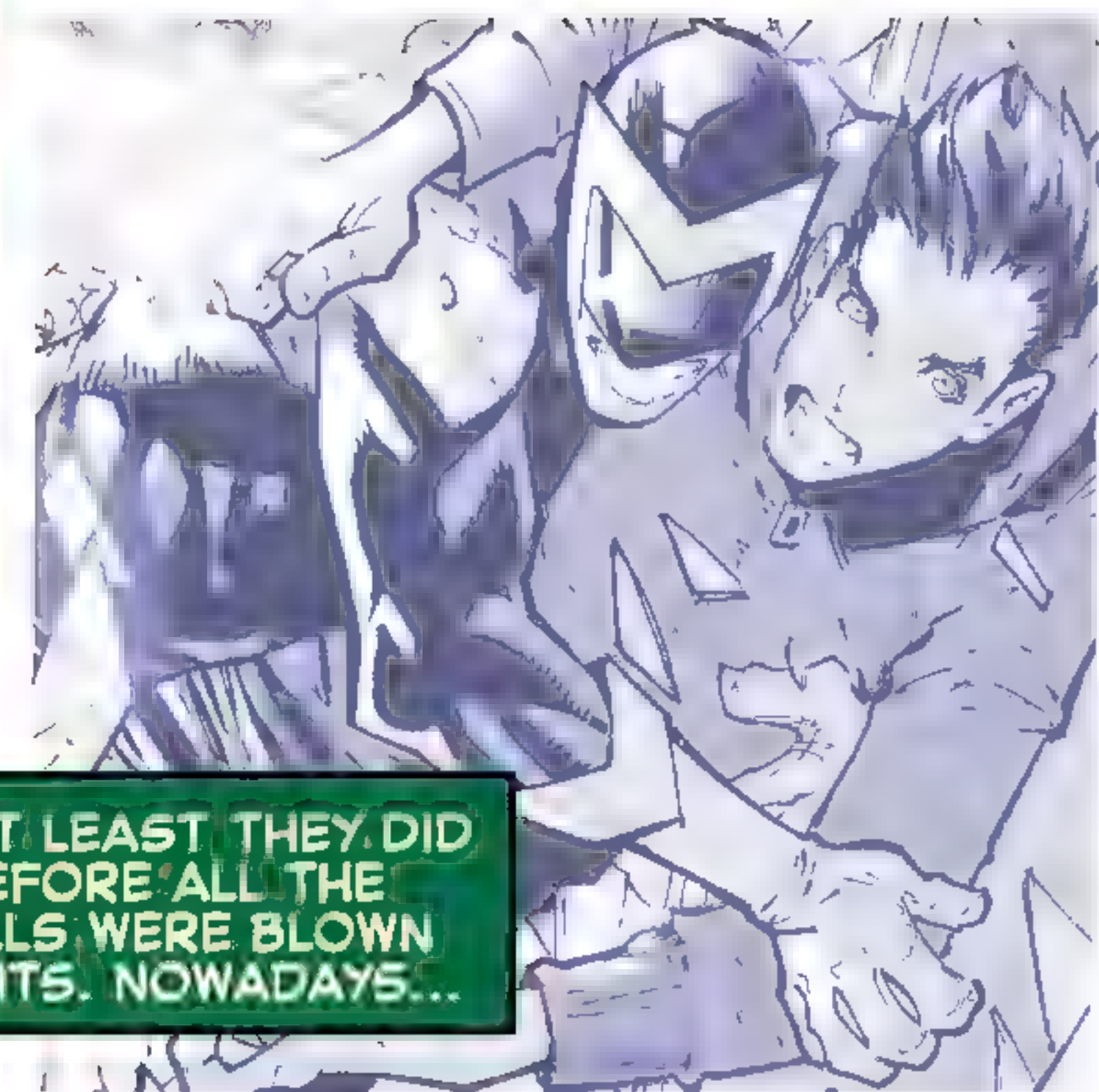
--I GOT THEIR *SCENT*.
AND AFTER A LONG
NIGHT HUNTING FOR ANY
TRACE OF IT ACROSS
THE CITY--

--I FINALLY FOUND
IT IN THE FIRST
PLACE I SHOULD'VE
LOOKED.

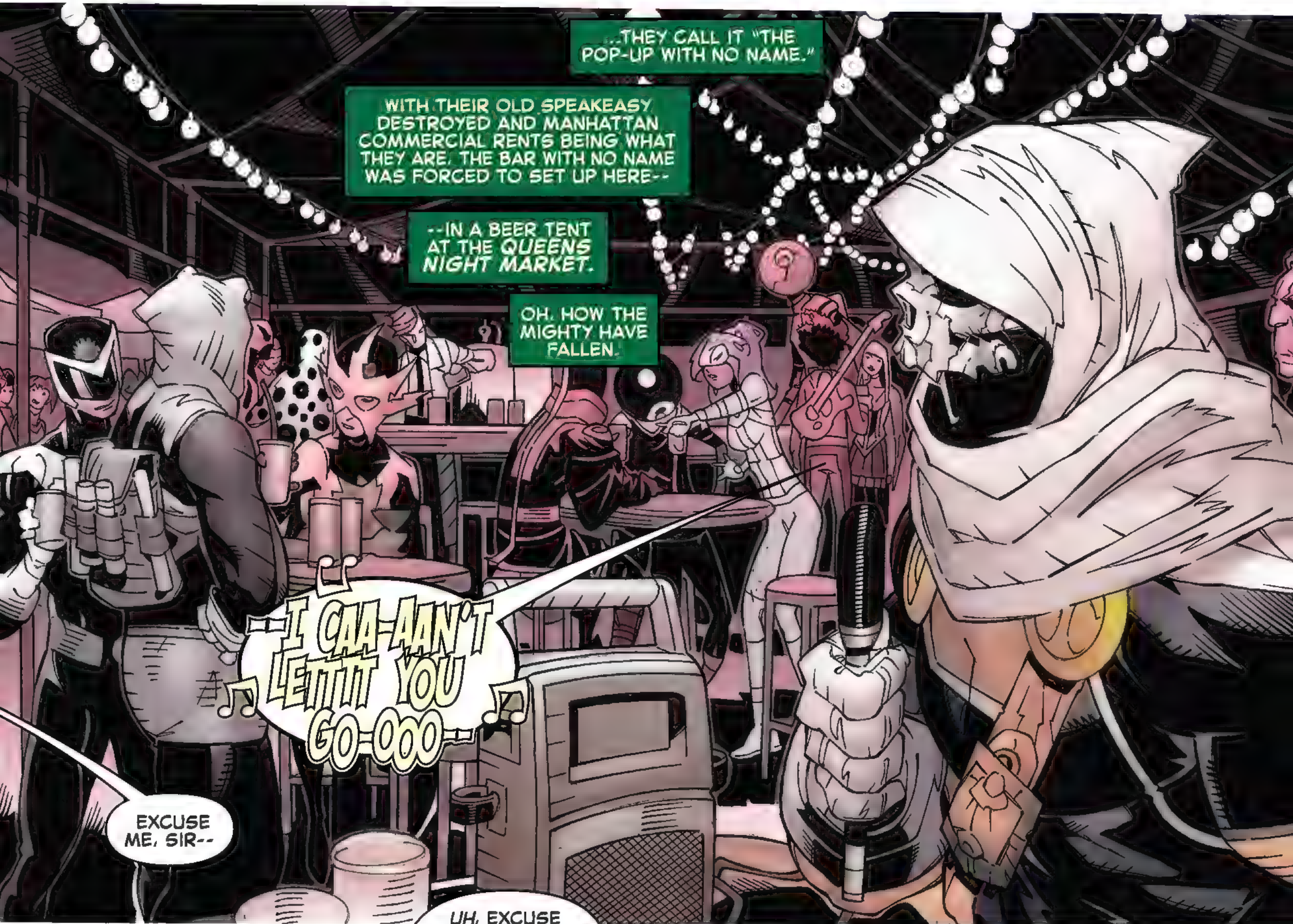


IT'S BEEN A HAVEN FOR SUPER-POWERED CRIMINALS FOR AS LONG AS ANYONE CAN REMEMBER.

THE DRINKING HOLE WHERE THEY COME TOGETHER AND COMMISERATE. BEHIND THOSE WALLS THE DEADLIEST DENIZENS OF THE CITY BOND...



OR AT LEAST THEY DID BEFORE ALL THE WALLS WERE BLOWN TO BITS. NOWADAYS...



...THEY CALL IT "THE POP-UP WITH NO NAME."

WITH THEIR OLD SPEAKEASY DESTROYED AND MANHATTAN COMMERCIAL RENTS BEING WHAT THEY ARE, THE BAR WITH NO NAME WAS FORCED TO SET UP HERE--

--IN A BEER TENT AT THE QUEENS NIGHT MARKET.

OH, HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN.

--I CAA-AAN'T LETTIT YOU GO-OOO--

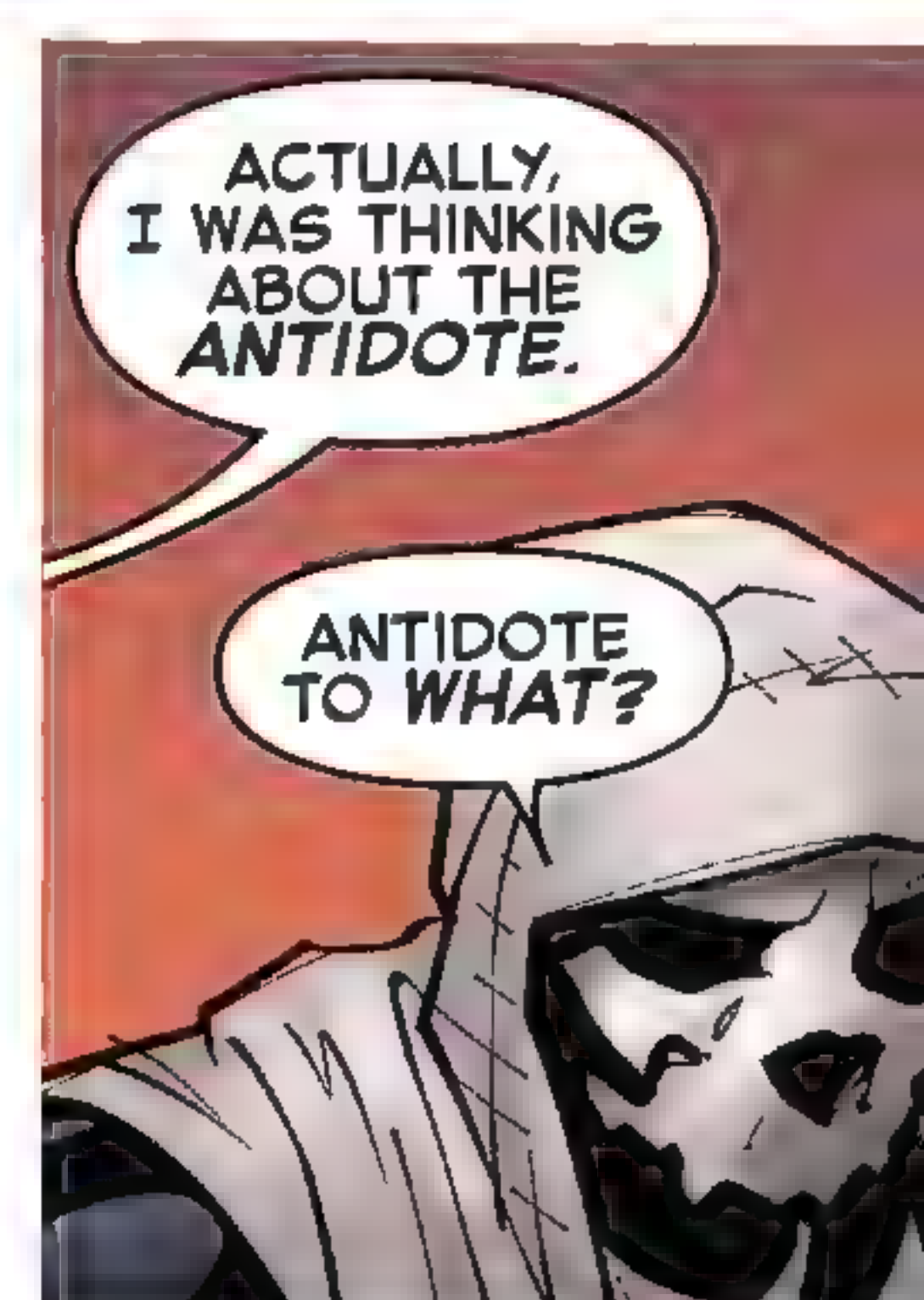
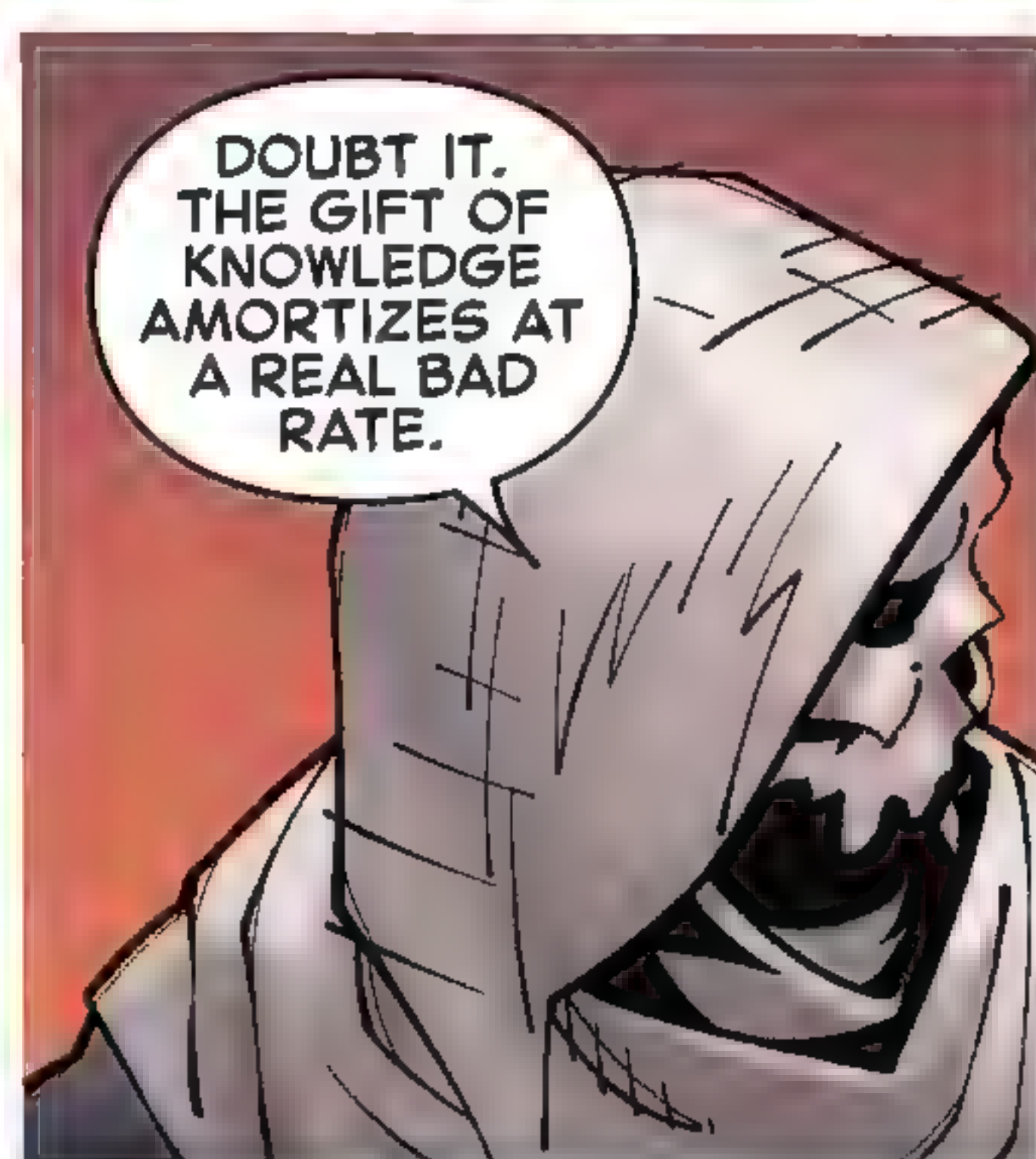
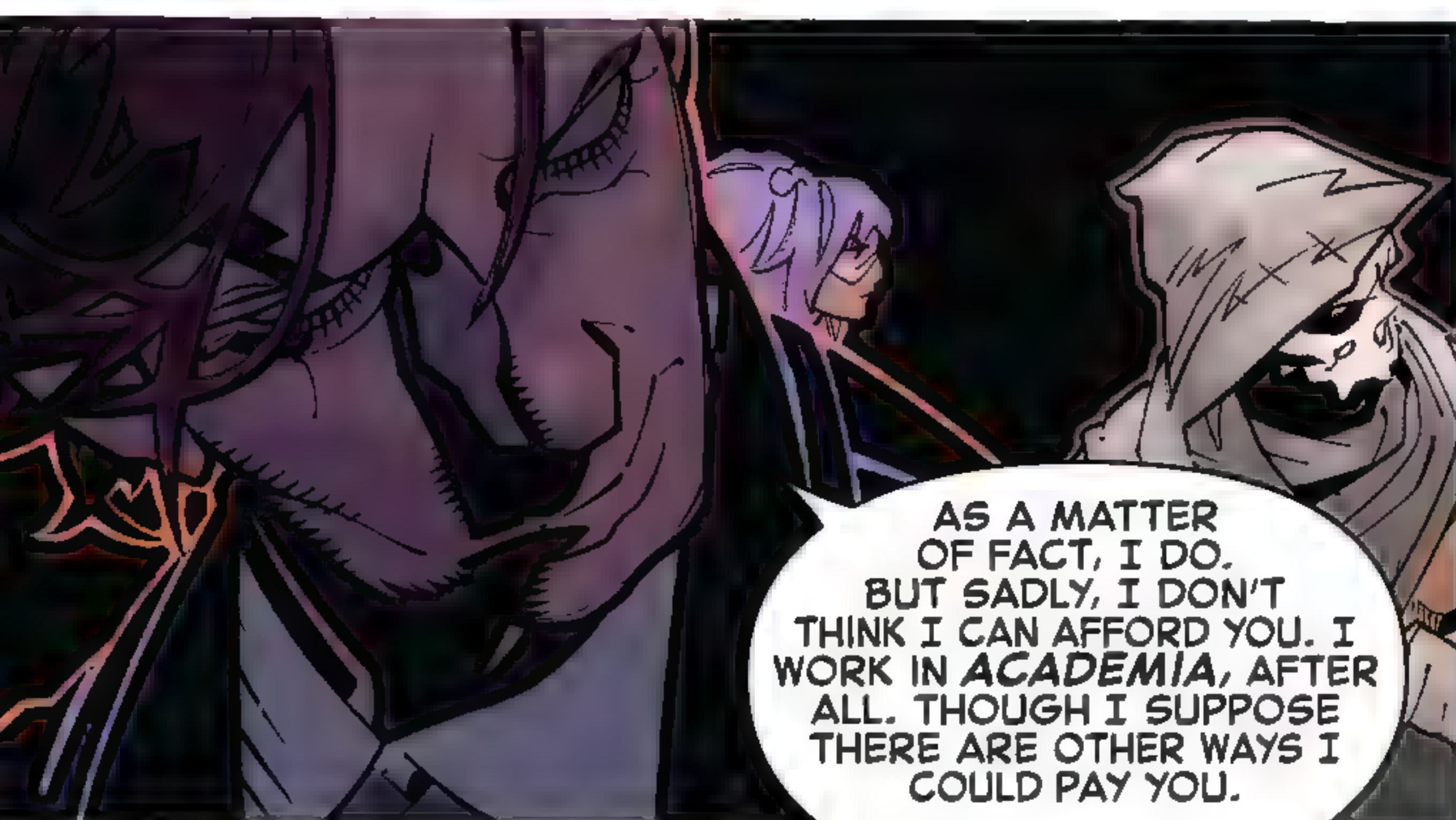
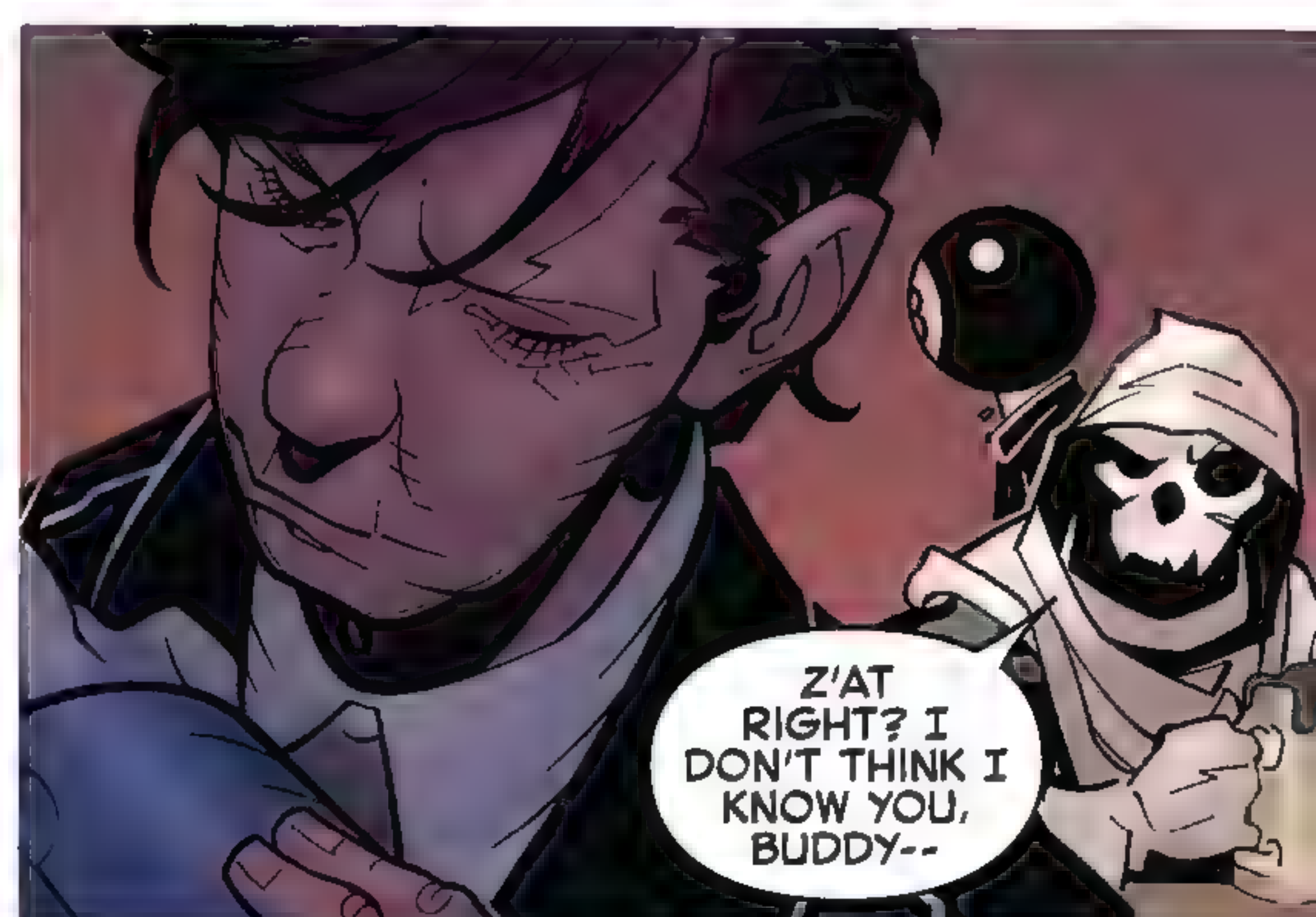
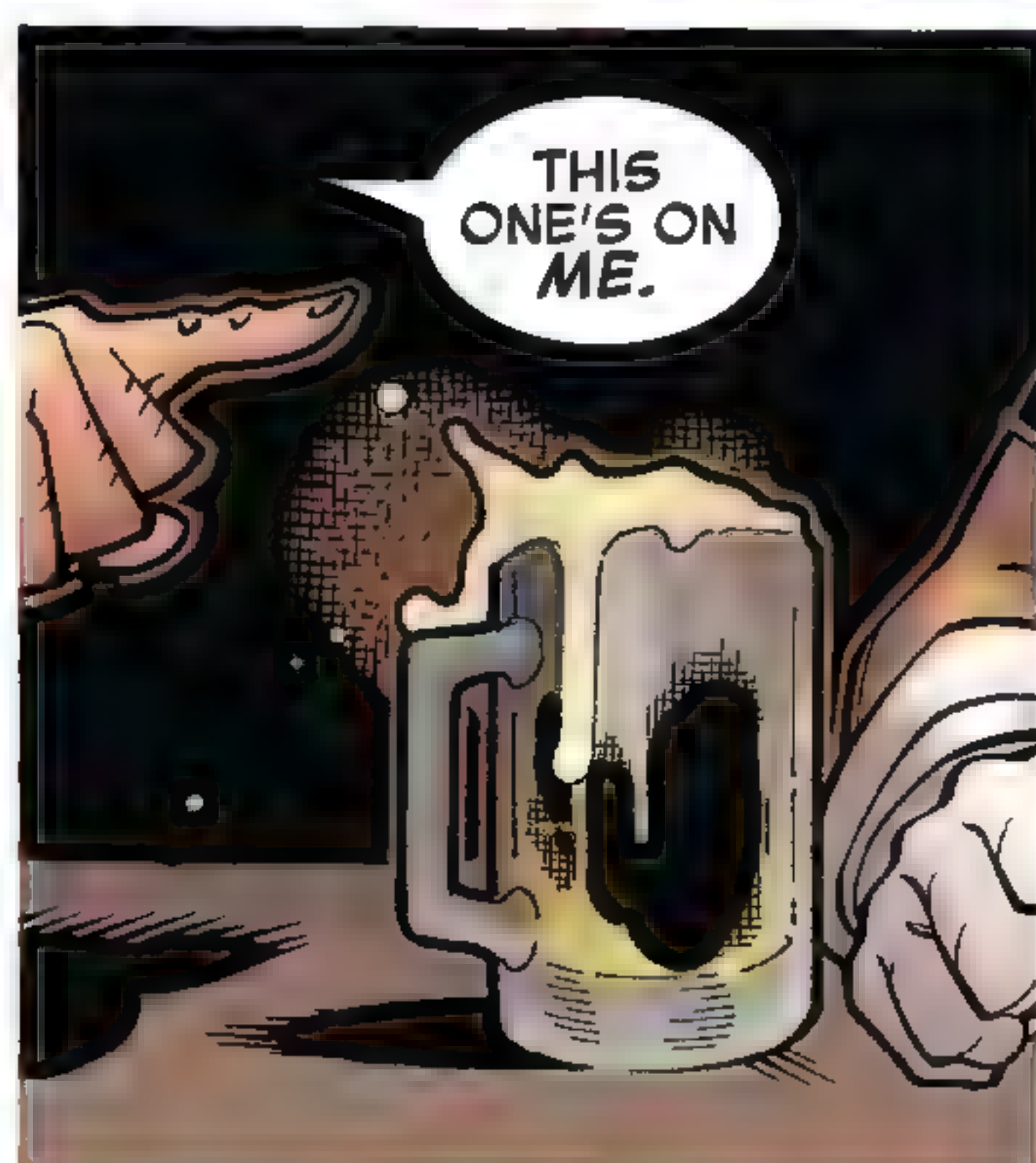
EXCUSE ME, SIR--

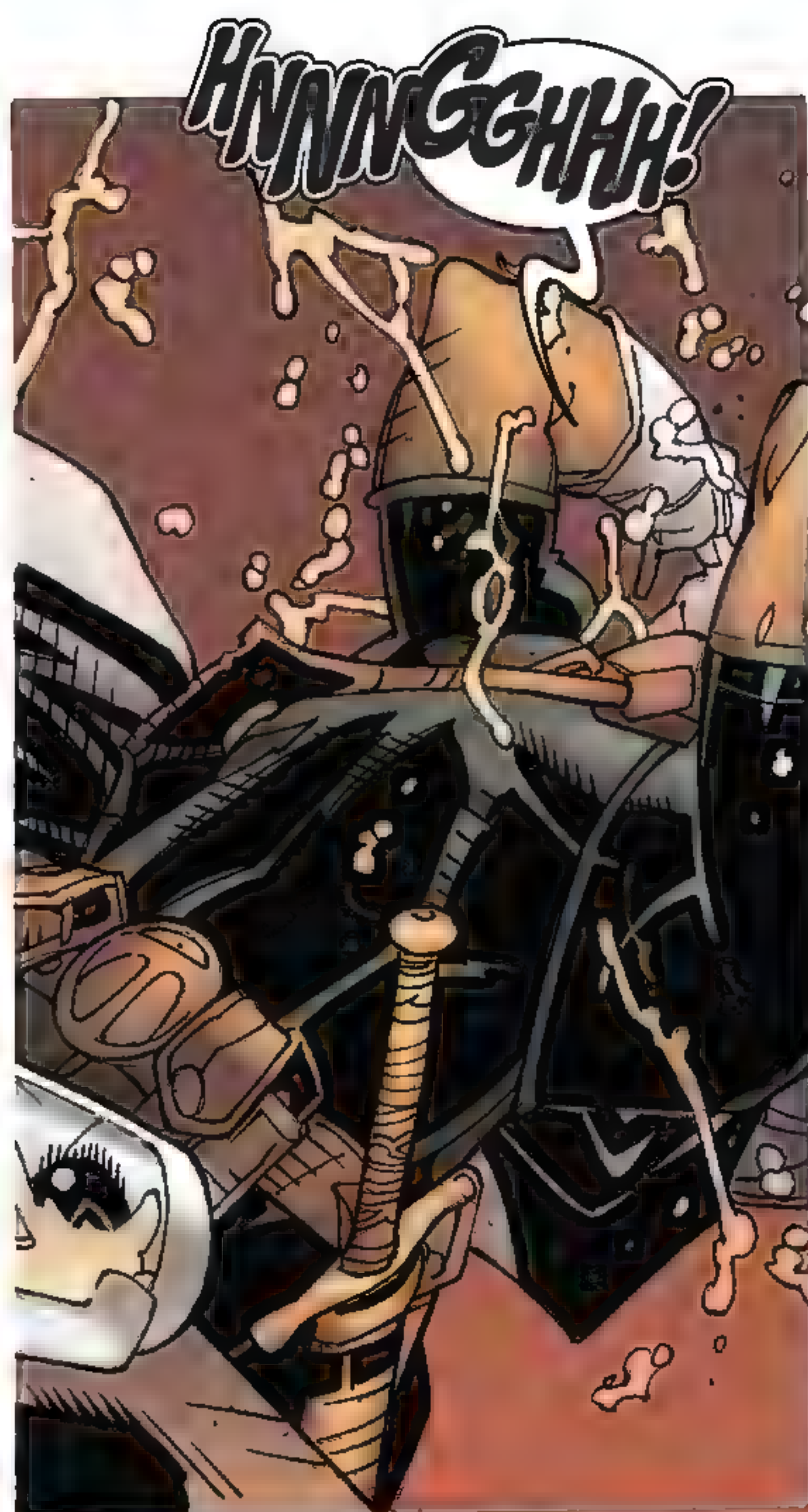
UH, EXCUSE ME, SORRY--DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE ARTISANAL CHEESE TENT IS?



ARTISANAL--?! GET OUTTA HERE!

CAN'T YOU SEE WHEN A GUY IS SINGING HIS PAIN AWAY?!







YOU?! YOU--NFFF--KIDDIN' ME?! YOU WERE **SSSAFE**. YOU WERE--NNNN--ONE OF THE ONESS WE DIDN'T GET! YOU WERE FREE AND CLEAR ON THE OUTSSSIDE--

THAT WAS YOUR MISSTAKE. YOU **SSSEE**--

I WANT INSSSIDE.

THAT WAS JUSSST THE FIRSSST ATTACK ON YOUR **SSSYSTEM**--

OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYSSS, THOSE EPISSSODES WILL BECOME BOTH MORE FREQUENT AND MORE **SSSEVERE**. UNTIL--

YOU CAN SPARE ME THE "UNTIL" PART, DOC--

WE BOTH KNOW WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF.

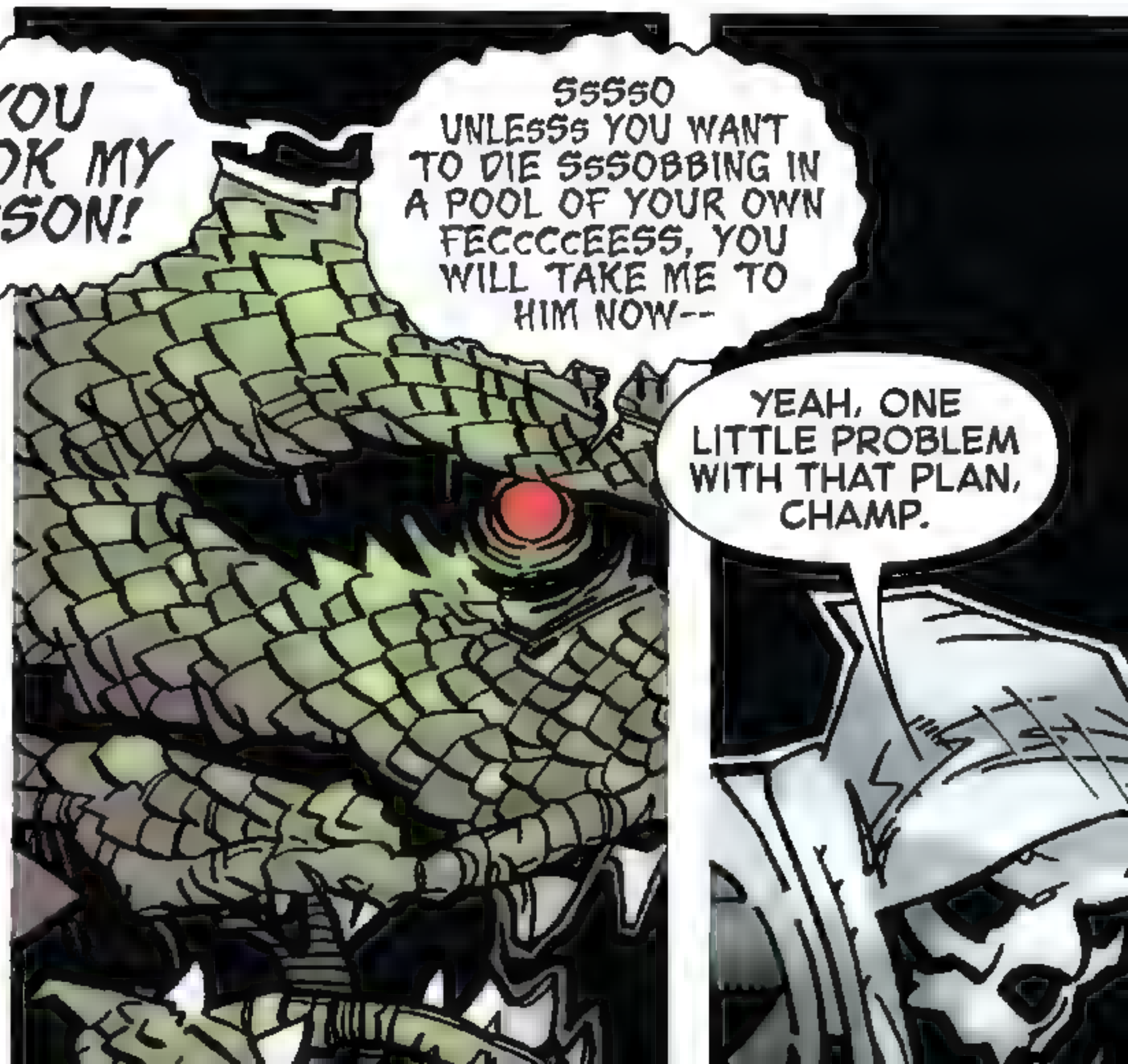


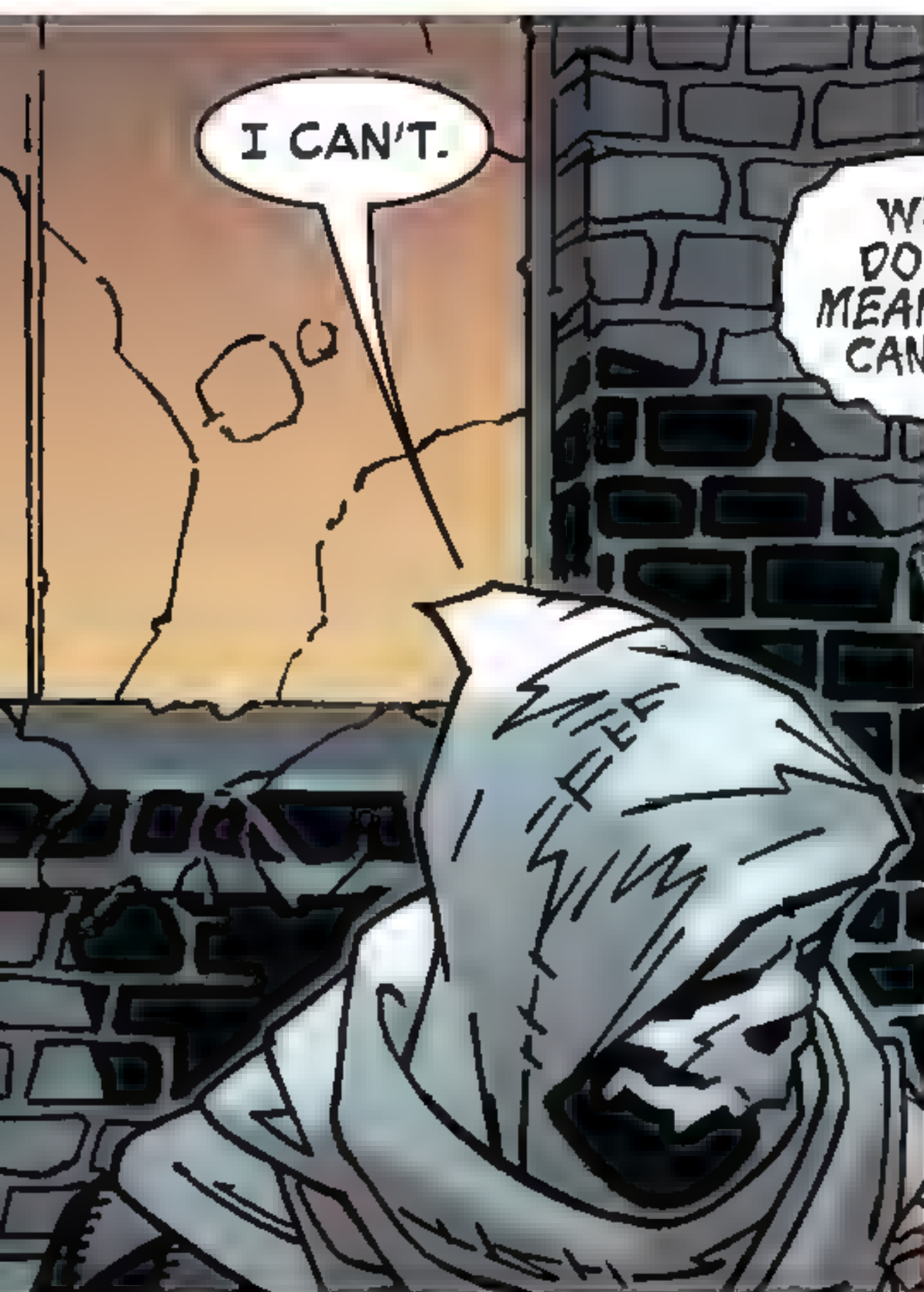
"WHAT'S THE WORST THING A MAN CAN DO?"

YOU TOOK MY **SSSON**!

SSSSO UNLESSS YOU WANT TO DIE **SSSOBBING** IN A POOL OF YOUR OWN **FECCCEESS**, YOU WILL TAKE ME TO HIM NOW--

YEAH, ONE LITTLE PROBLEM WITH THAT PLAN, CHAMP.

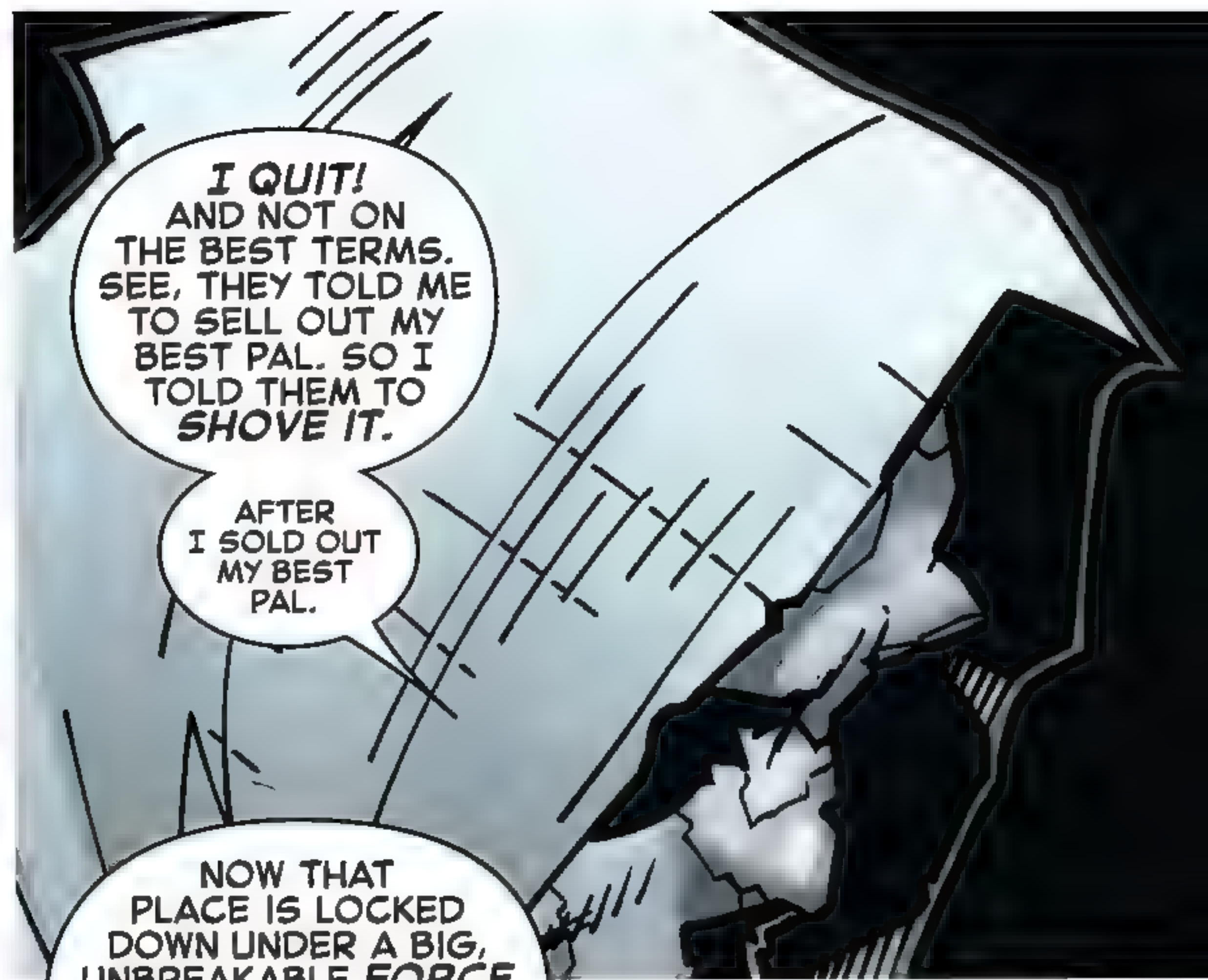




I CAN'T.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN "YOU CAN'T"?!



I QUIT! AND NOT ON THE BEST TERMS. SEE, THEY TOLD ME TO SELL OUT MY BEST PAL. SO I TOLD THEM TO SHOVE IT.

AFTER I SOLD OUT MY BEST PAL.

NOW THAT PLACE IS LOCKED DOWN UNDER A BIG, UNBREAKABLE FORCE FIELD. DON'T THINK THEY'RE GONNA LET ME BACK IN BECAUSE I FORGOT MY KEYS.

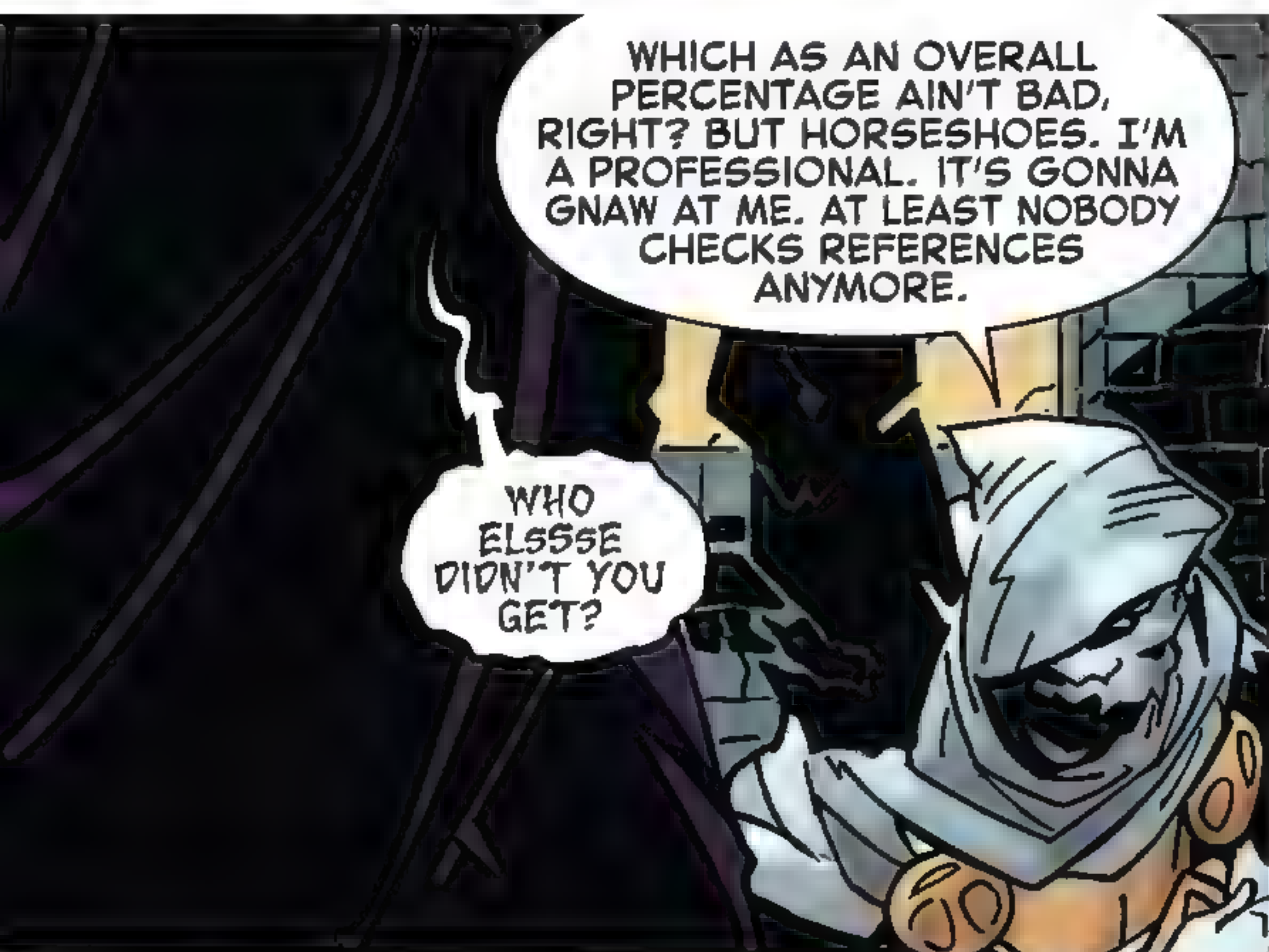
WHAT WOULD THEY NEED ME FOR, ANYWAY?

WE'D GOTTEN HIRED TO FILL UP CENTRAL PARK WITH ALL THE FURRIES AND, UH, SCALIES, I GUESS? AND WE DID IT. WELL, ALMOST--



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ALMOSSST"?

I MEAN YOU. SURE, WE GOT YOUR BOY--CUTE KID, BY THE WAY--BUT WITH YOU AND ABOUT A DOZEN OTHERS ON THE LIST, WE CAME UP EMPTY.



WHICH AS AN OVERALL PERCENTAGE AIN'T BAD, RIGHT? BUT HORSESHOES. I'M A PROFESSIONAL. IT'S GONNA GNAW AT ME. AT LEAST NOBODY CHECKS REFERENCES ANYMORE.

WHO ELSSE DIDN'T YOU GET?



HERE, HAVE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF. I'M GONNA BE SEEING TIGER SHARK IN MY DREAMS.



HMM-- THAT'SSS IT. COME WITH ME--

"YOU'RE ABOUT TO FINISH THE JOB."

DOC, YOU GOT ANY IDEA HOW MANY MAD SCIENTISTS I'VE WORKED FOR? IT'S A LOT.

BUT I GOTTA TELL YOU--OF ALL THE HAREBRAINED PLANS THEY'VE DRAGGED ME ALONG FOR--

--THIS IS ONE OF THE FLIMSIEST.

IT'LL WORK. IT HASSS TO.

YOU SSSAID KRAVEN WANTED TO FILL CCENTRAL PARK WITH THE MOSSST DANGEROUSSS AND MURDEROUSSS BEASSSTSSS IN THE CCCITY.

WELL, THIS ONE CERTAINLY FITS THE BILL.

WHEN I MOVED MY FAMILY INTO THE SEWERS, I CHECKED THE AREA FOR THREATS.

AFTER ALL, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'S LURKING IN THE SHADOWS.

SO I MADE SURE TO CHOOSE A SPOT FAR AWAY.



FAR FROM THE
CREATURE THEY
CALL VERMIN.

PLEASE,
LET US
GO.

BUT HE WASN'T
DOING ANYTHING
LIKE *THIS* THEN...

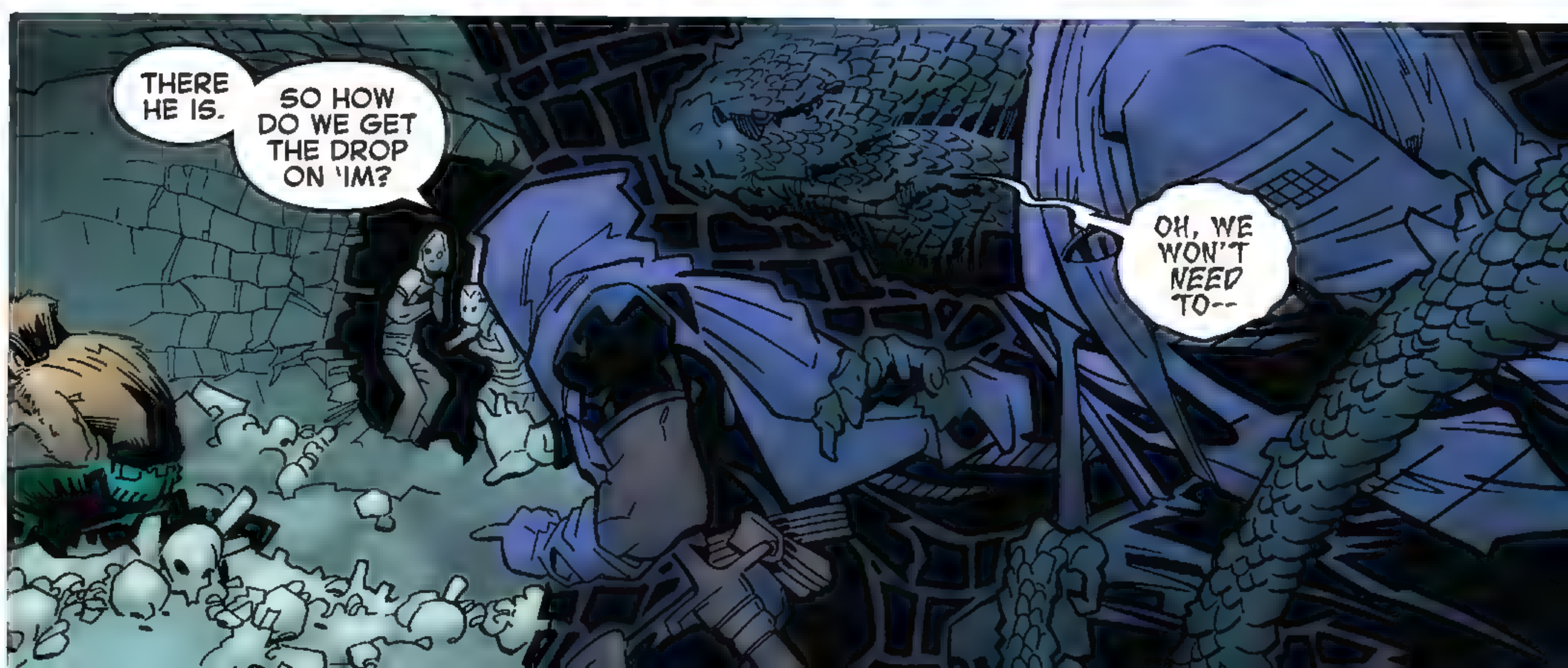
QUIET!

YOU WANT
VERMIN TO BE
ALONE AGAIN?!
SCARED IN THE
DARK?! NO!
YOU STAY!

VERMIN IS
TIRED OF BEING
ALONE. VERMIN
WANTS
FRIENDS.



FRIENDS
GIVE VERMIN
**TASTY
TREATS.**



THERE
HE IS.

SO HOW
DO WE GET
THE DROP
ON 'IM?

OH, WE
WON'T
NEED
TO--



"--HE'LL GET
THE DROP
ON USSS."



FRIENDS!

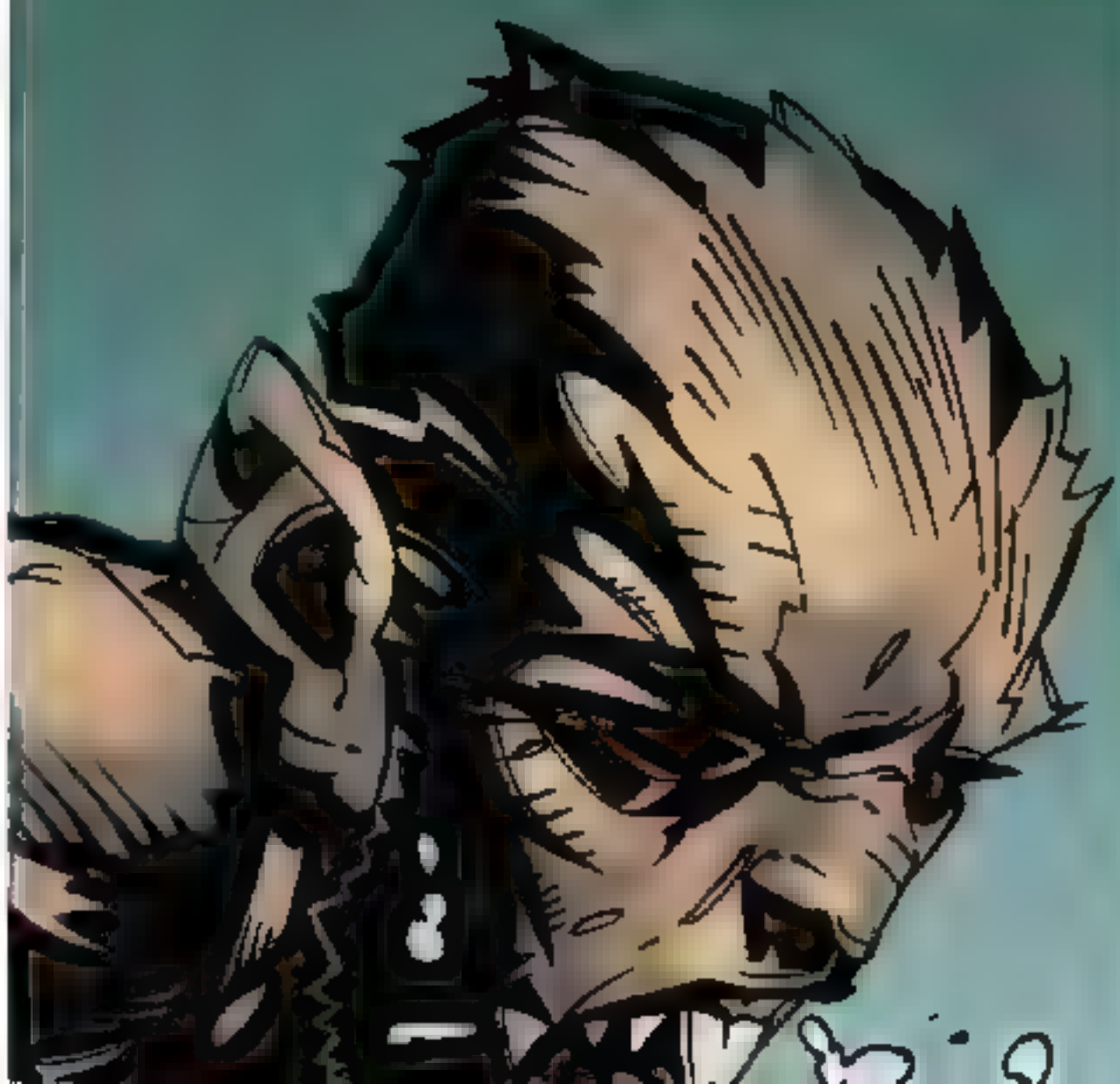


MORE
FRIENDS! THESE
SMELL DIFFERENT.
SLIPPERY.

A
LITTLE HELP,
DOC?

BUT I CAN'T
HELP, AT LEAST
NOT WITH THE
FIGHTING.

AFTER ALL, NO MATTER
HOW BLOODTHIRSTY
VERMIN MAY BE, HE'S STILL
A LIVING CREATURE. WHICH
MEANS MY INHIBITOR CHIP
WON'T LET ME HURT HIM.





I CAN STOP HIM
FROM HURTING
SOMEONE ELSE,
THOUGH.



YOU COME TO
HURT VERMIN?!
YOU COME TO
MAKE US
AFRAID?!

AND JUST THEN,
I HEAR IT IN MY
HEAD AGAIN.



I'LL
MAKE **YOU**
AFRAID!

"WHAT'S THE WORST
THING A MAN CAN DO?"

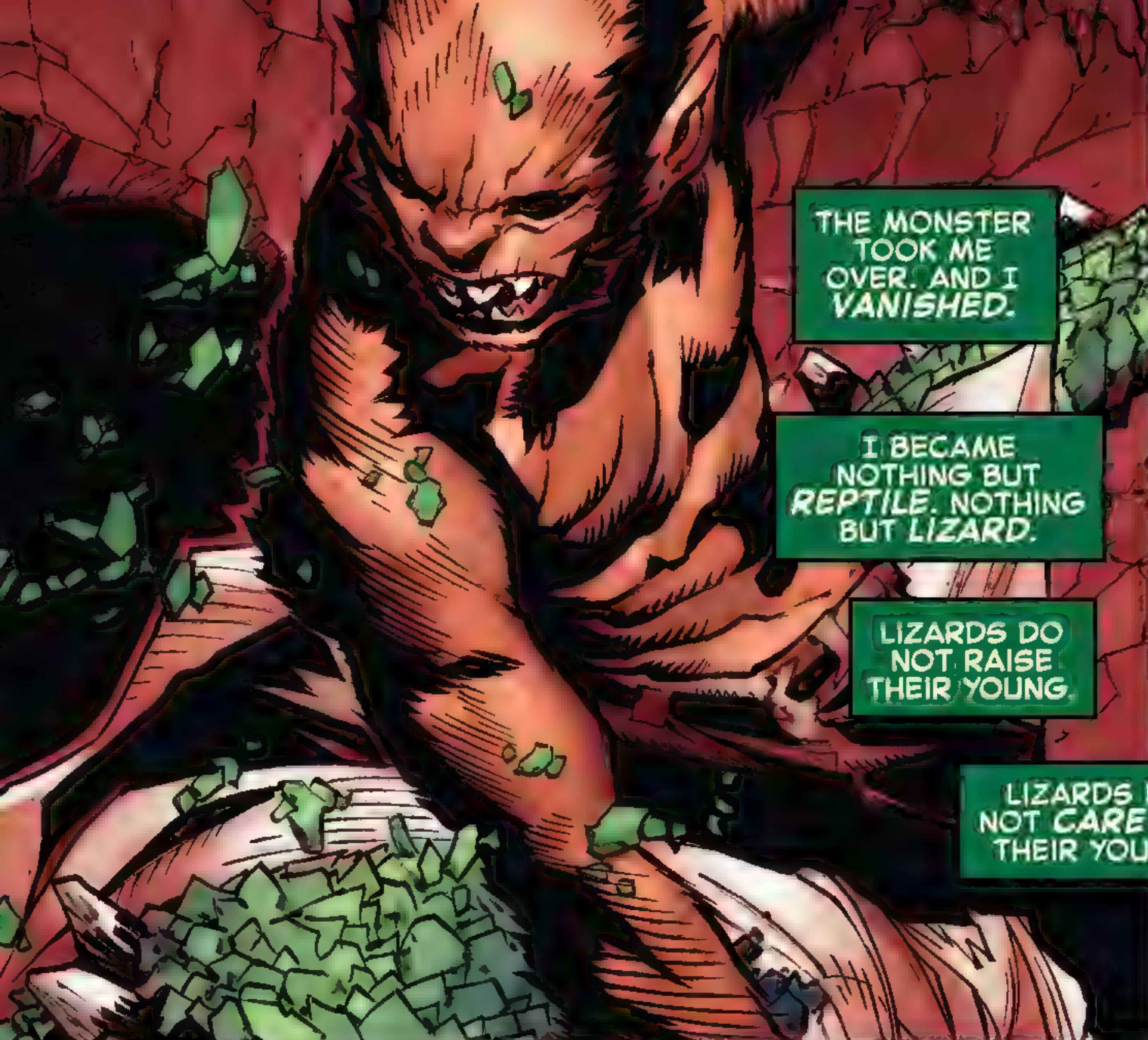


THE TRUTH IS I
KNOW WHY I
KEEP HEARING
THE QUESTION.

IT'S BECAUSE
I CAN'T LIVE
WITH THE
ANSWER.



NOT LONG
AGO, I LOST
CONTROL
WORSE THAN
EVER.

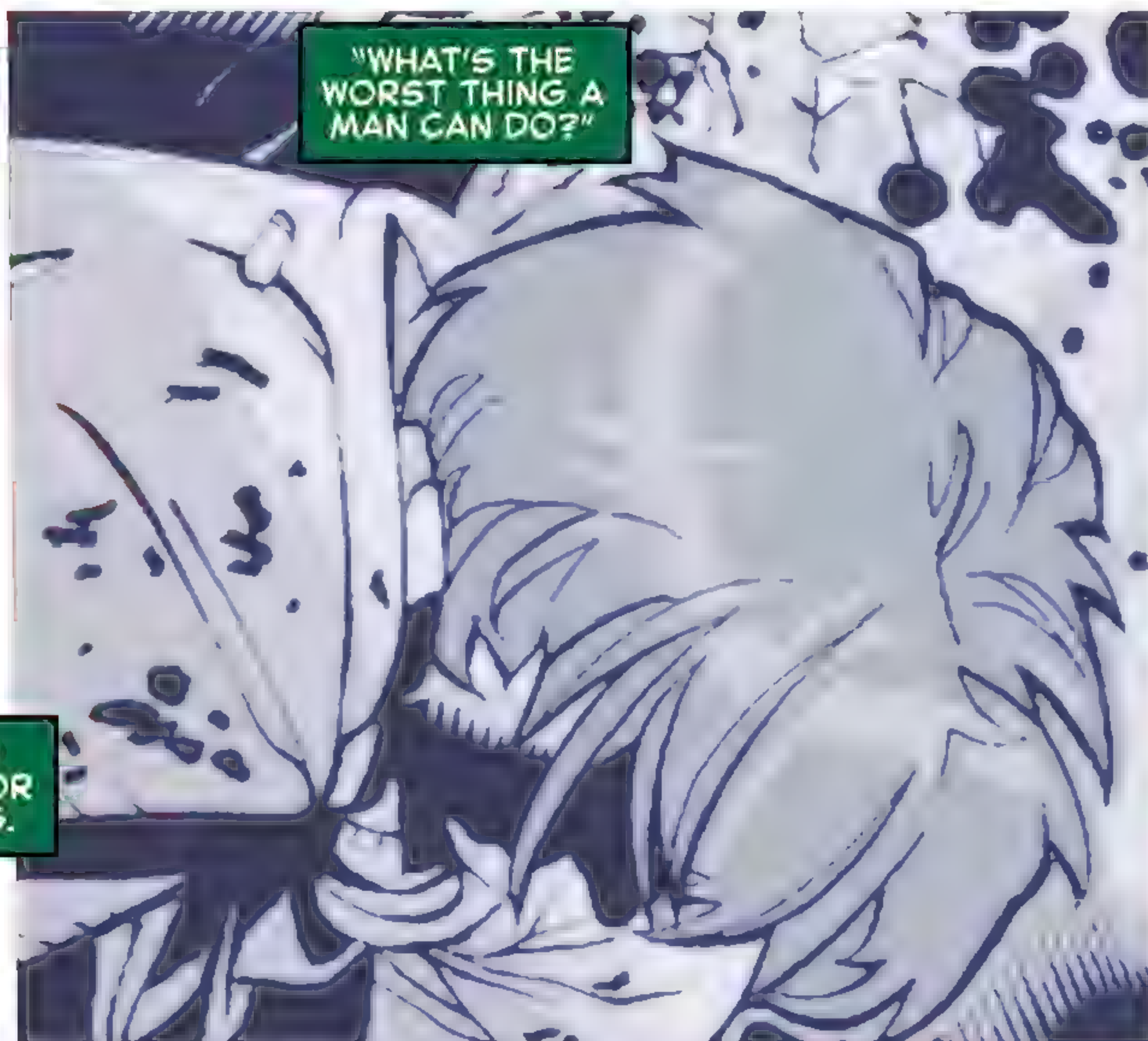


THE MONSTER
TOOK ME
OVER, AND I
VANISHED.

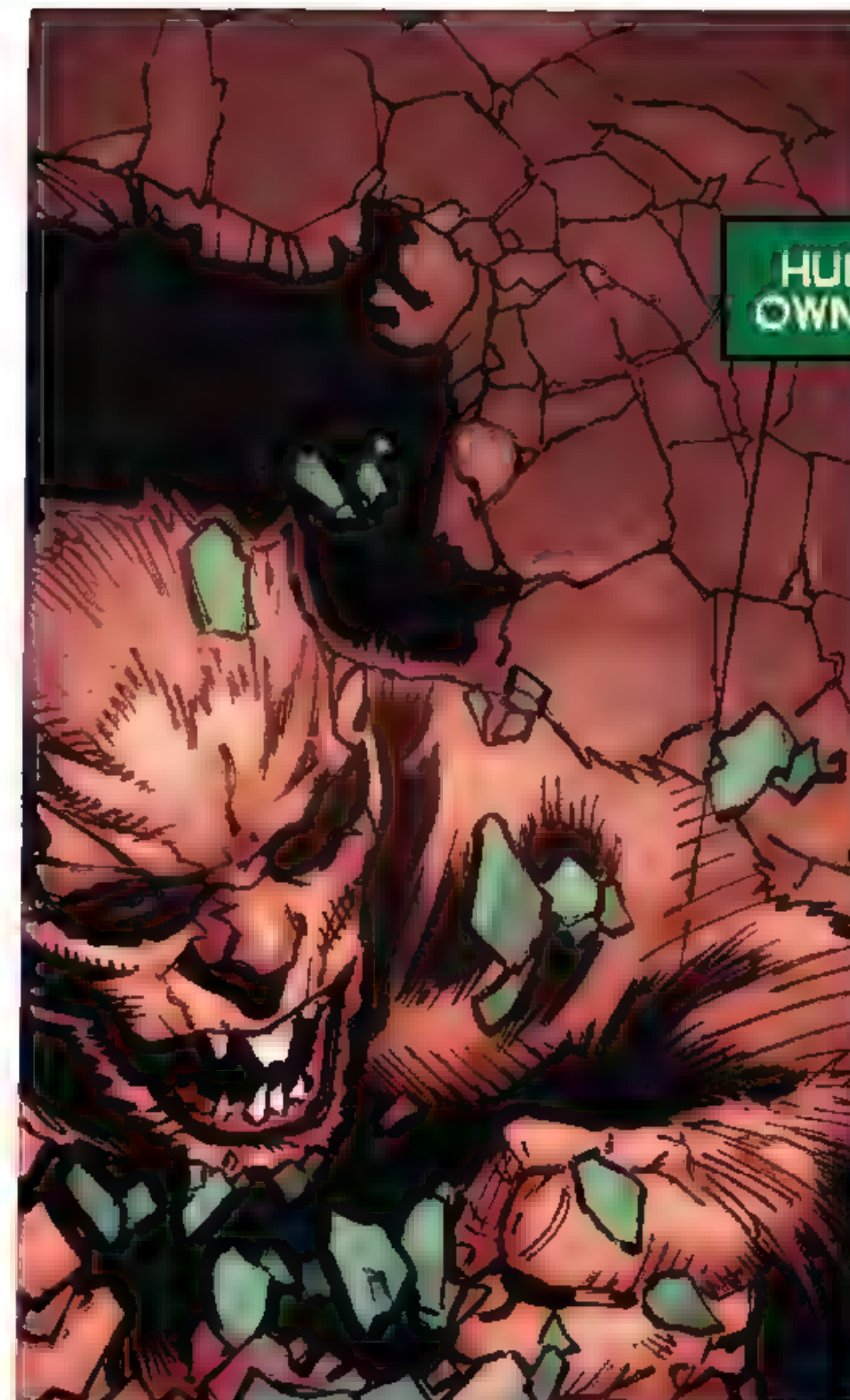
I BECAME
NOTHING BUT
REPTILE. NOTHING
BUT LIZARD.

LIZARDS DO
NOT RAISE
THEIR YOUNG.

LIZARDS DO
NOT CARE FOR
THEIR YOUNG.



"WHAT'S THE
WORST THING A
MAN CAN DO?"



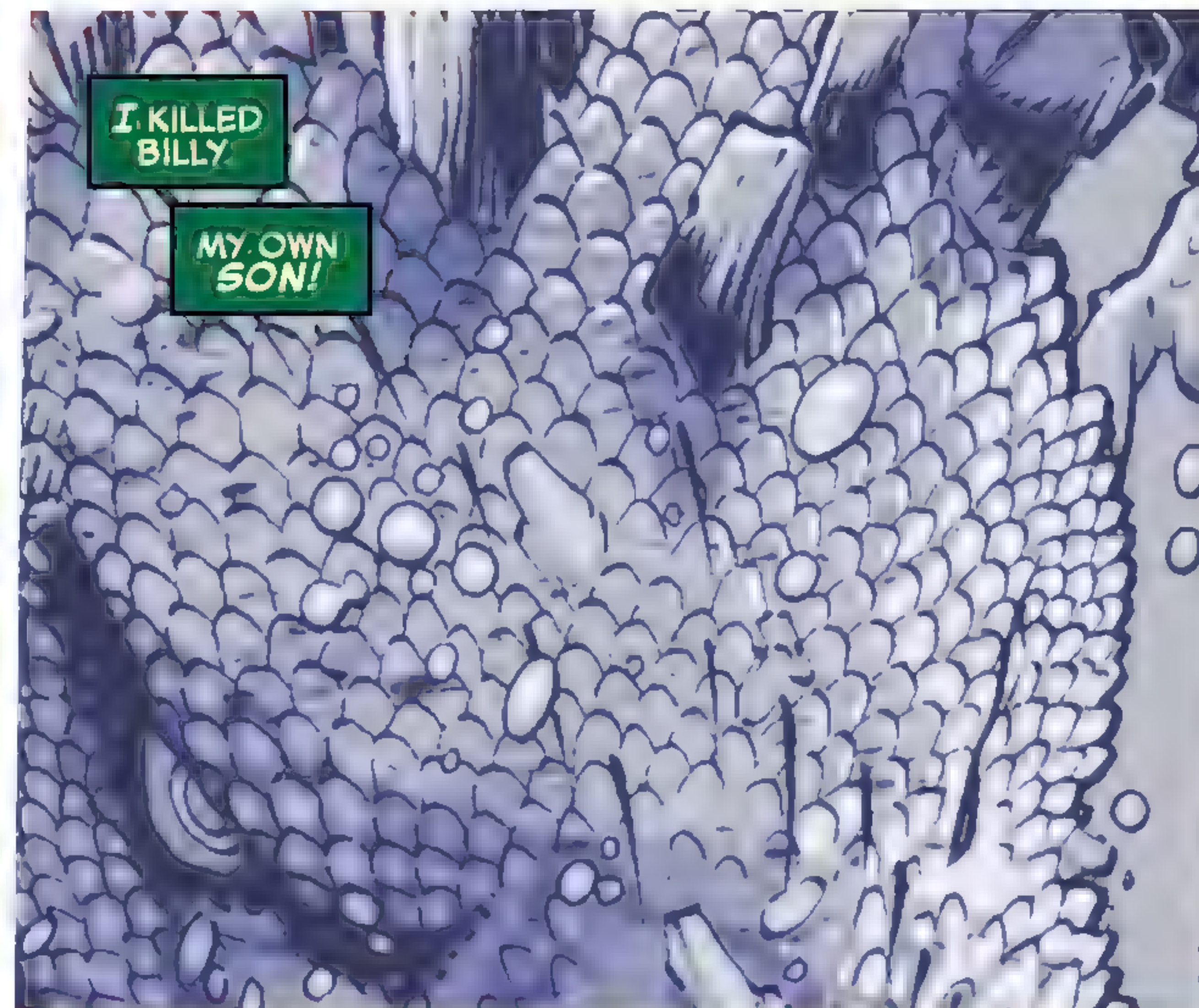
HURT. HIS
OWN CHILD.



BILLY, I--

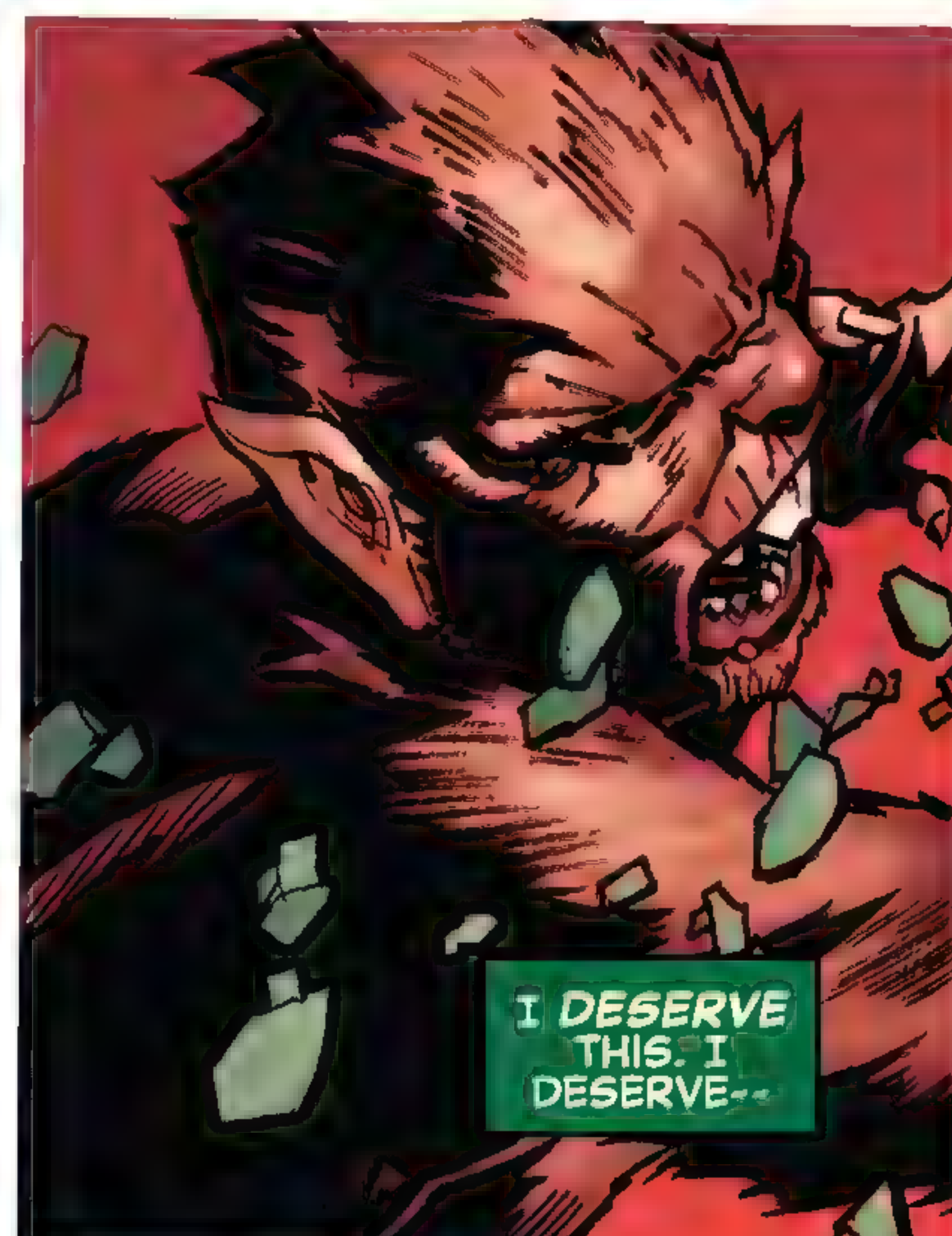


BILLY DIED. BY
THE LIZARD'S
HAND.

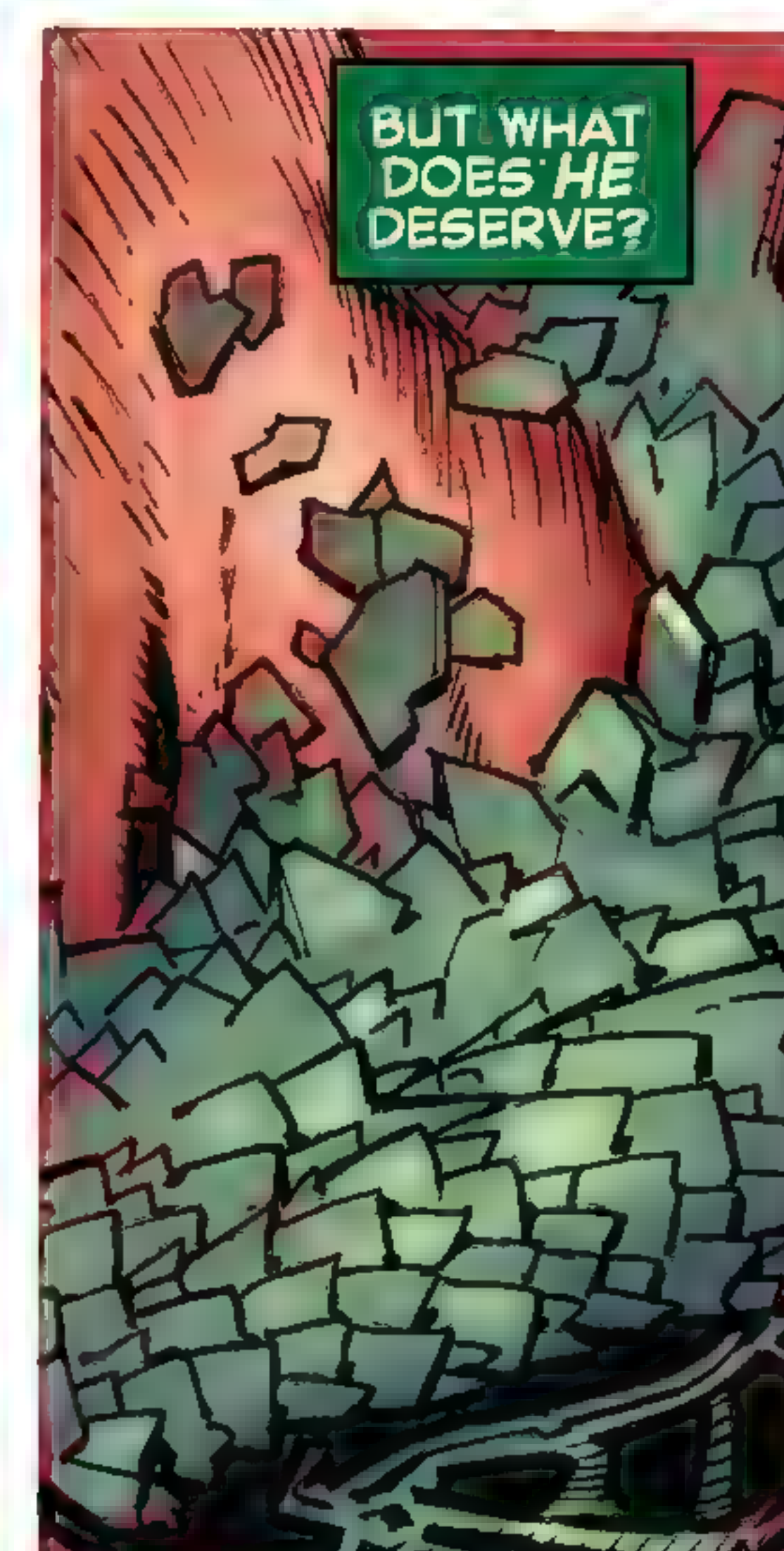


I KILLED
BILLY.

MY OWN
SON!



I DESERVE
THIS. I
DESERVE--



BUT WHAT
DOES HE
DESERVE?



HE CAME BACK.
THEY BROUGHT HIM
BACK TO LIFE.

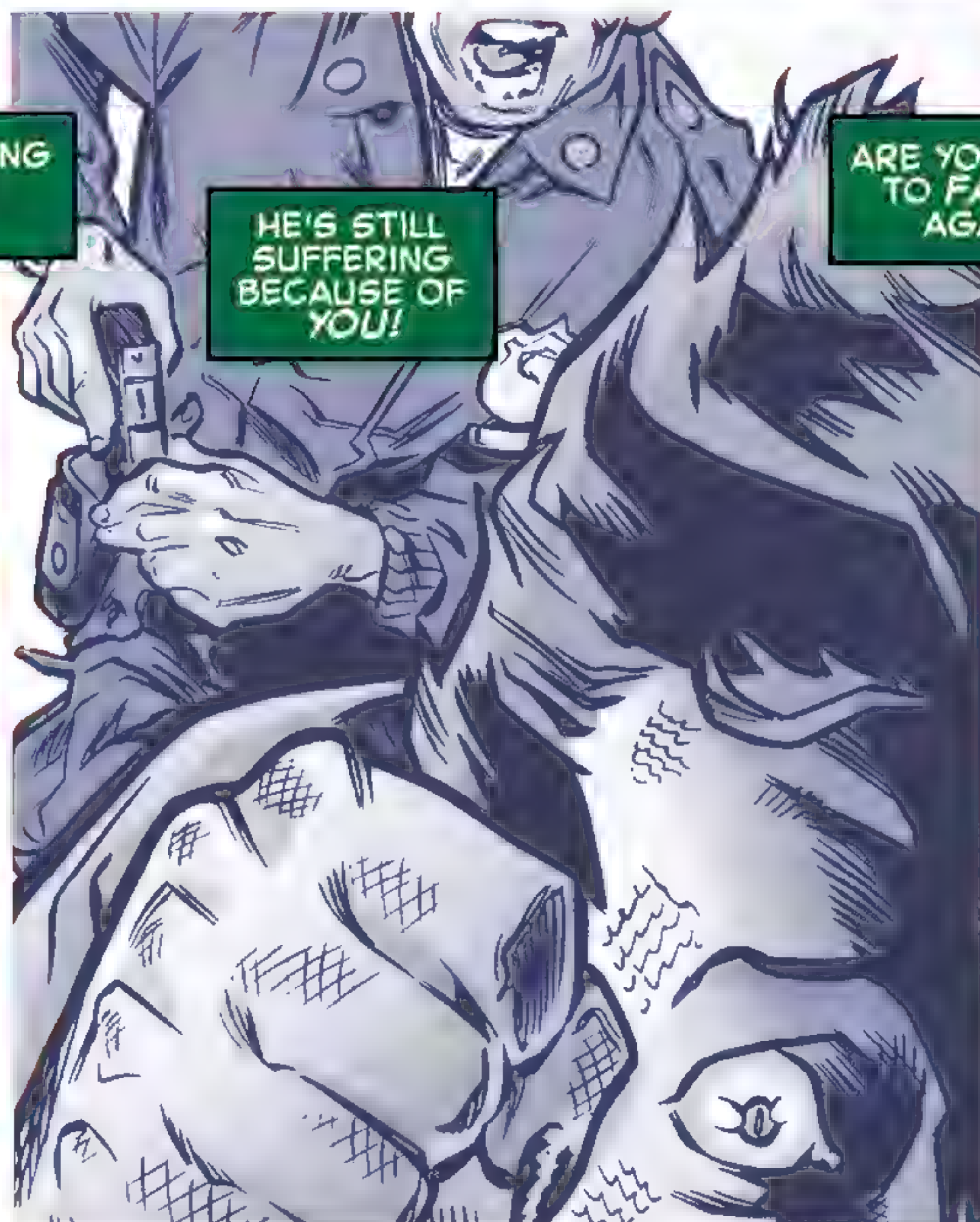
IS IT
REALLY
HIM?



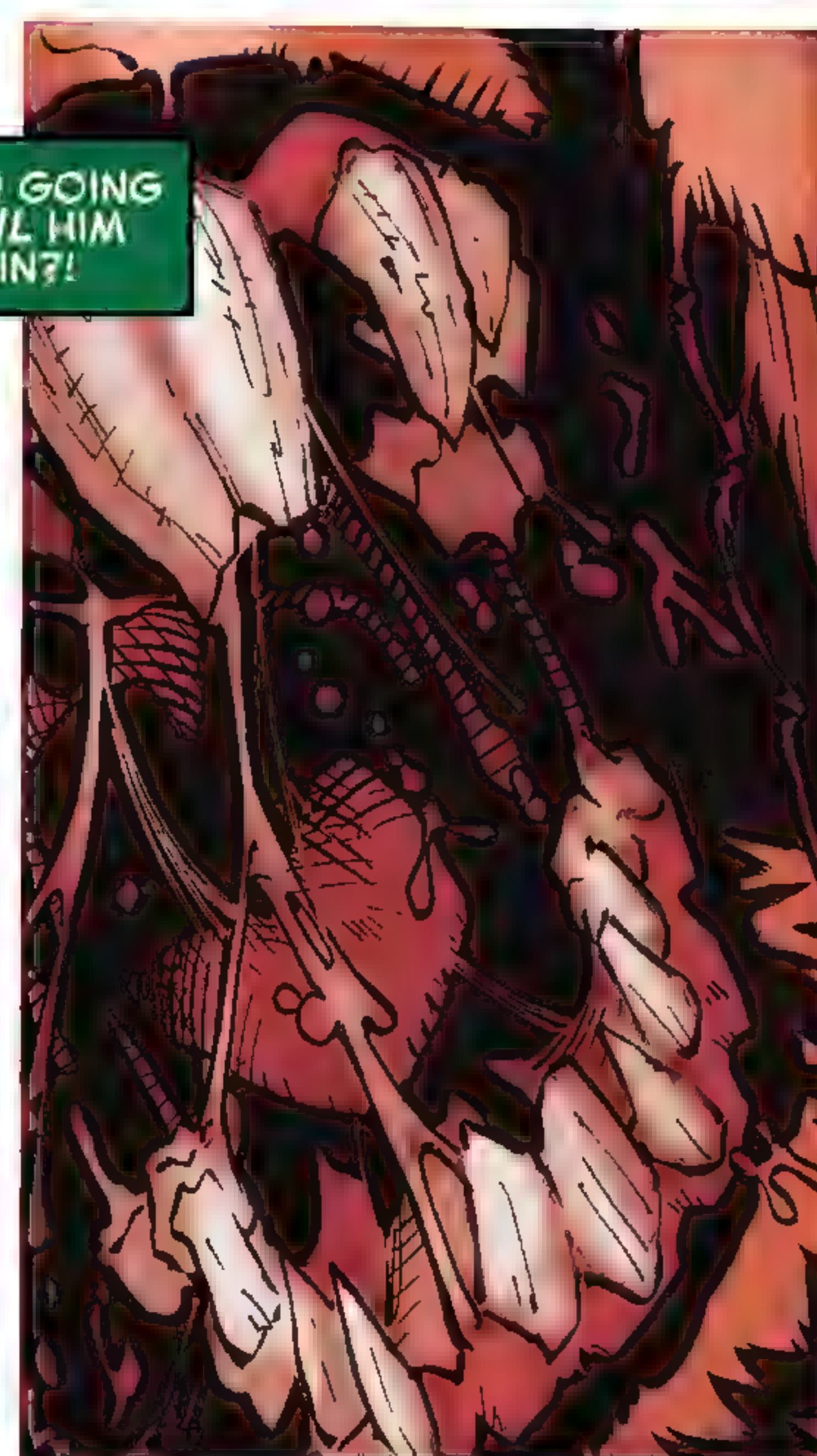
YOU GET TO TRY AGAIN.
GET TO PRETEND IT
NEVER HAPPENED.
EVERYONE GETS TO
PRETEND IT NEVER
HAPPENED. (BUT IT DID.)



HE'S STILL PAYING
FOR YOUR
MISTAKES.



HE'S STILL
SUFFERING
BECAUSE OF
YOU!



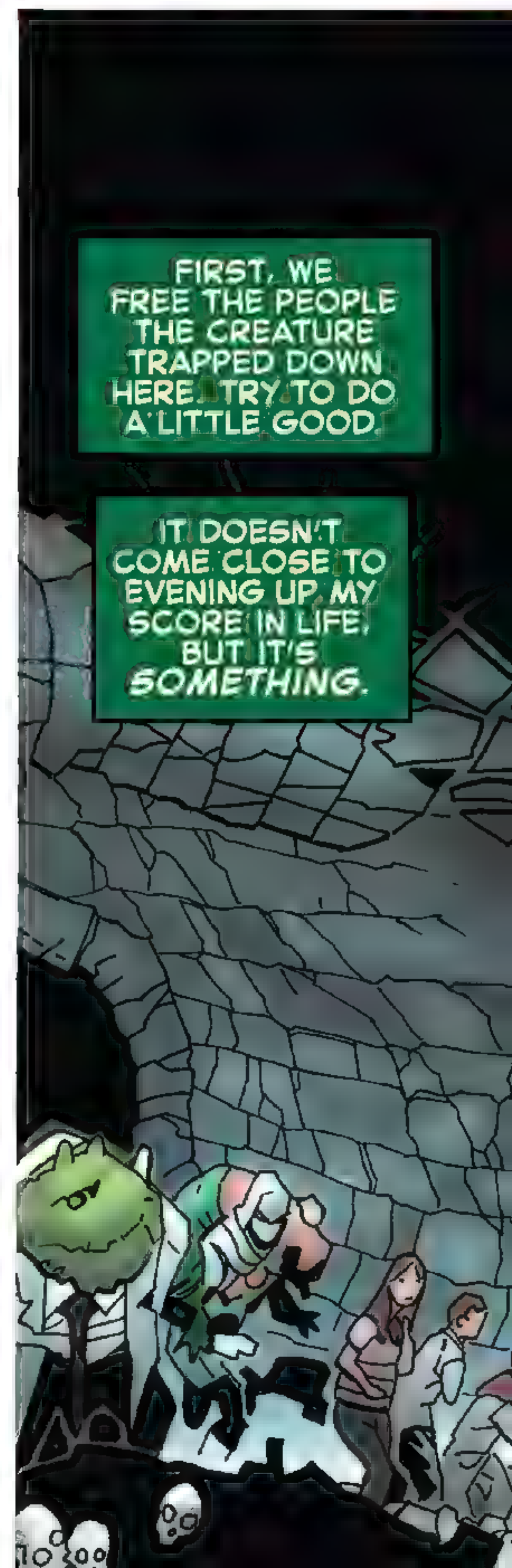
ARE YOU GOING
TO FAIL HIM
AGAIN?!

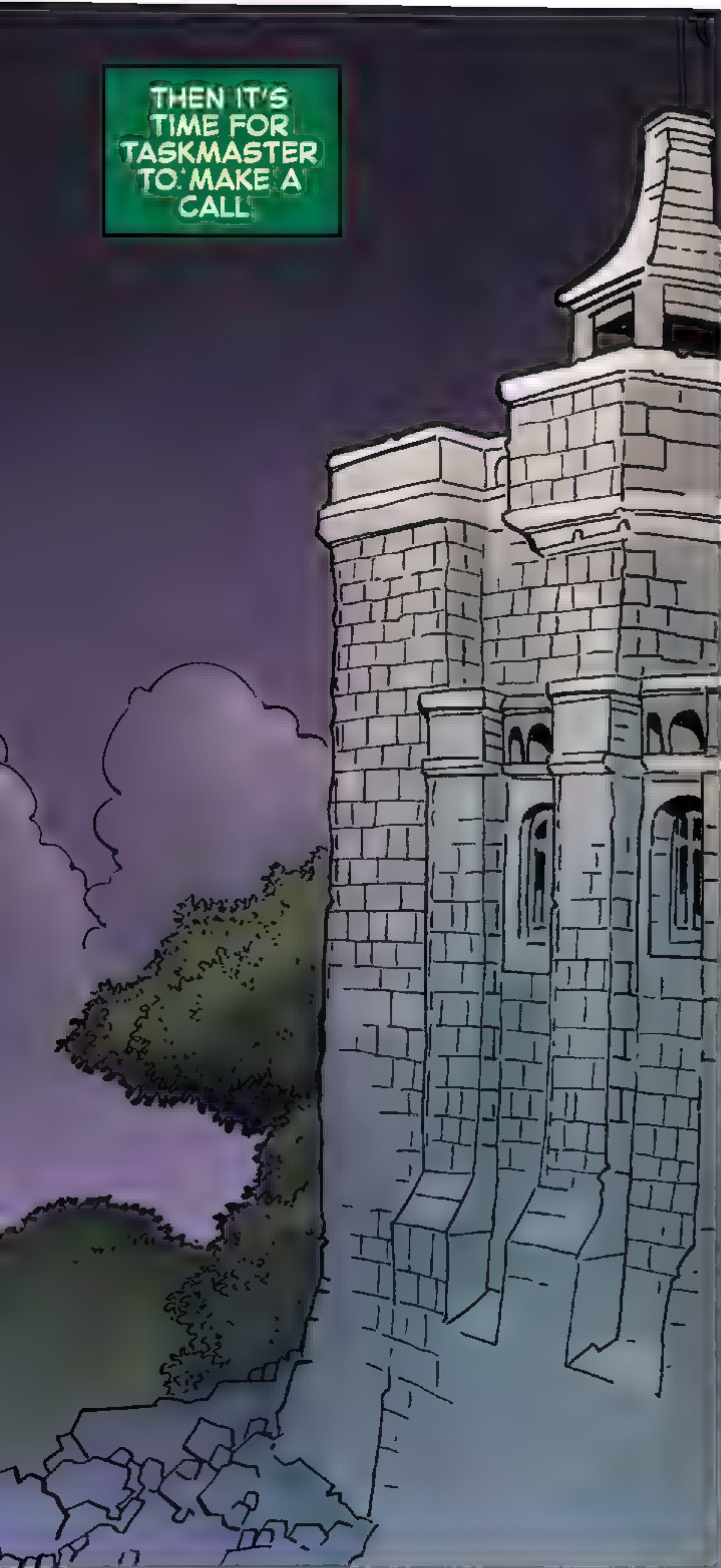


ARE YOU GOING
TO LET HIM DIE
AGAIN, YOU
MONSTER?!



No!

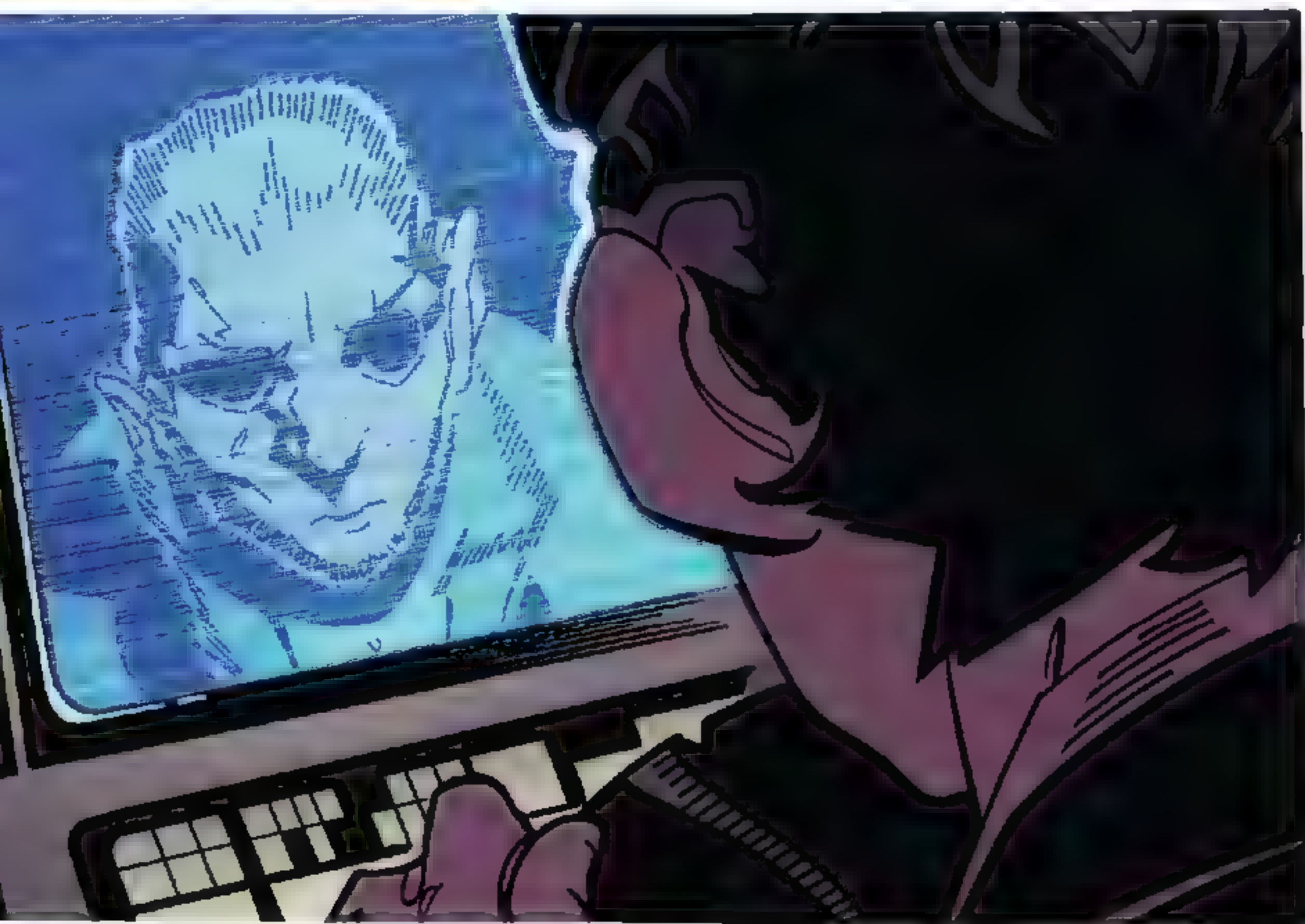




THEN IT'S
TIME FOR
TASKMASTER
TO MAKE A
CALL



THE
VICIOUS
VERMIN!



PASS.



WHADDAYAMEAN
"PASS"?!

NO, I GET IT, HE'S A CRUCIAL PART OF THE
KRAVEN-SPIDER-MAN MYTHOS. BUT TRUTH
IS, WE'RE ALREADY OVERCROWDED IN HERE.
MOST OF THESE PEOPLE ARE HALF-WILD
ANIMAL, AND WE DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH TOILETS.

BRINGING IN
ANOTHER GUEST
STAR THIS LATE IN
THE STORY? RECIPE
FOR DISASTER.



BESIDES, YOU
KNOW THE RULES. I
CAN'T OPEN UP A PINHOLE IN
THE FIELD. IT BLOWS UP THE
BUDGETS, AND IT'S A SECURITY
RISK. HAVE YOU SEEN CAPTAIN
MARVEL OUT THERE? SHE
LOOKS ANGRY. ANGRIER
THAN USUAL.

SIGH. FINE.
LET ME PUT
YOU ON HOLD
FOR A SEC.



SEE?
FLIMSY.



FIGURE
SSSOMETHING
OUT!

YEAH--

--I
ALREADY
HAVE.

ARRRRGGHH!

ZZAP



ARRRRGGHH!



HEY,
ARCADE!

I WAS
SAVIN' THIS FOR A
SURPRISE, BUT FACT IS,
VERMIN WAS JUST THE
TASTE. I EXPECT DOUBLE
FOR THIS GUY. HE'S THE
ONE THAT GOT AWAY,
THE BIG WHALE...

WAIT, YOU
MEAN--

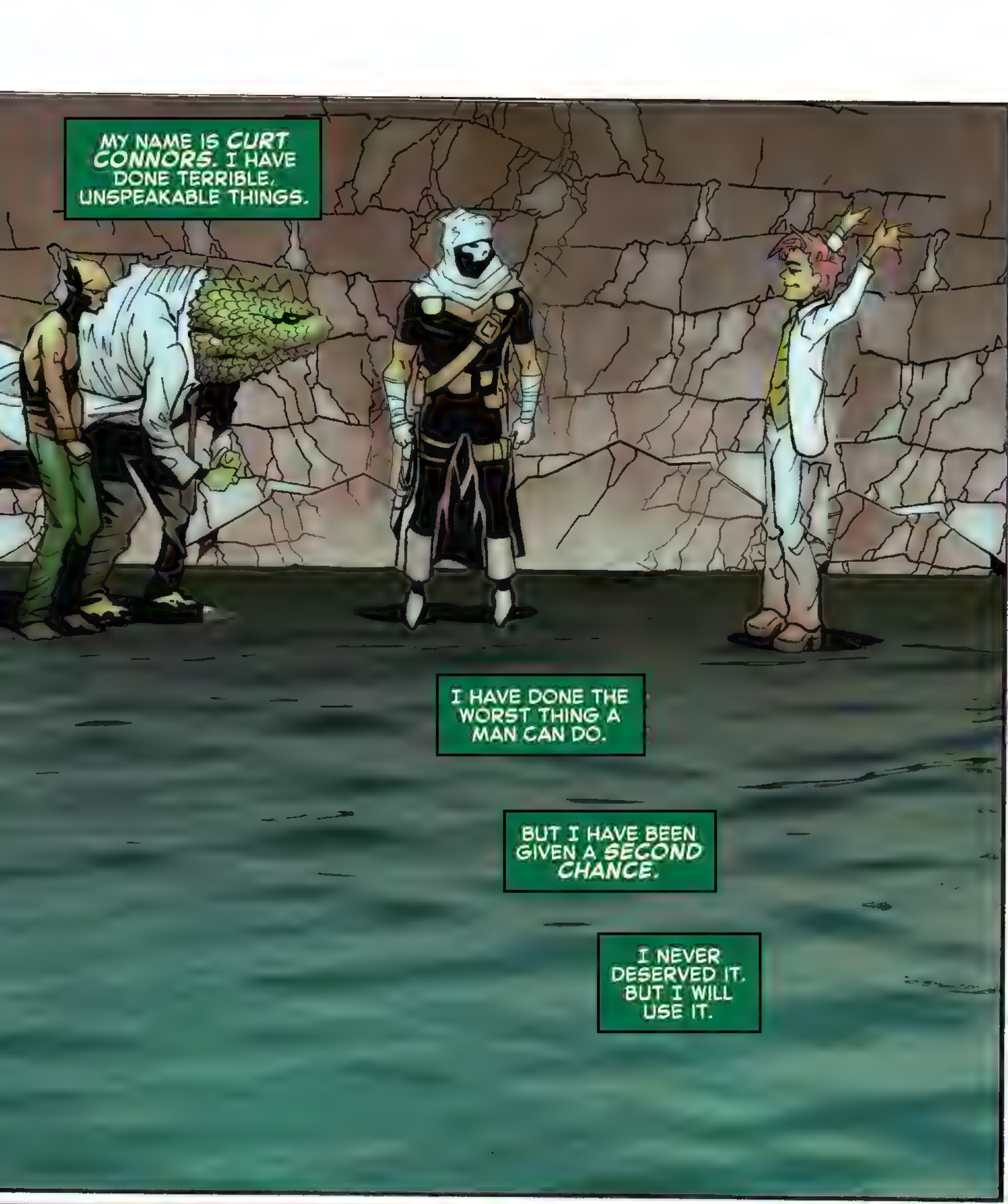


YEP, AND I DON'T
MEAN THE HALF-PINT
VERSION. WE GOT
'IM--

--THE EVER-
LOVIN' LIZARD
HIMSELF.



I'LL SEND YOU
COORDINATES.



MY NAME IS *CURT CONNORS*. I HAVE DONE TERRIBLE, UNSPEAKABLE THINGS.

I HAVE DONE THE WORST THING A MAN CAN DO.

BUT I HAVE BEEN GIVEN A *SECOND CHANCE*.

I NEVER DESERVED IT. BUT I WILL USE IT.



I WON'T LET YOU DOWN AGAIN, SON.

I WON'T LET YOU DIE. I WILL *SAVE* YOU.



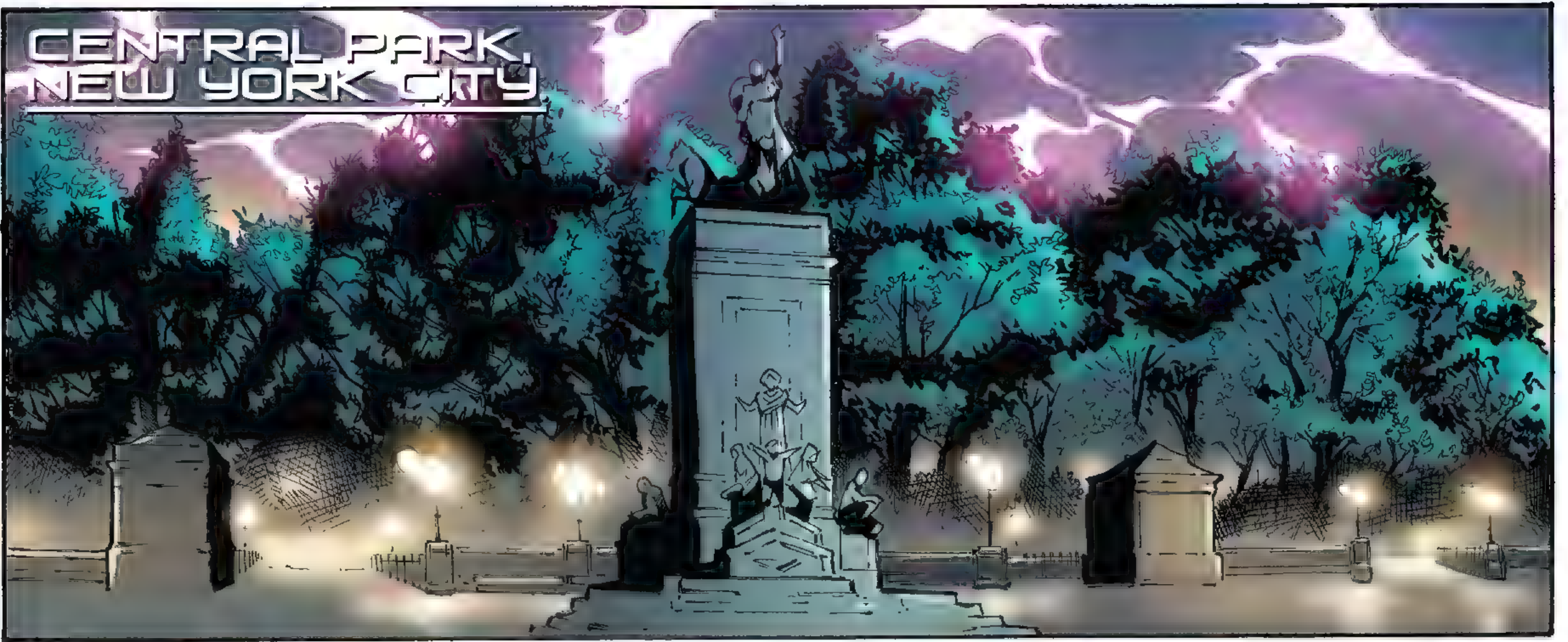
IF IT'S THE *LAST* THING I DO.

20



HUNTED PART 4

CENTRAL PARK,
NEW YORK CITY



LET HIM
GO. TRUST
ME.

WHY *SHOULD*
I? THOSE
THINGS ARE
DANGEROUS--

JUST DON'T
WANNA SEE YOU
MAKE THE SAME
KIND OF MISTAKE
I MADE,
SPIDEY...



I USED
TO BE A GOOD
GUY TOO, YOU
KNOW.



OR AT LEAST I *TRIED*
TO BE. GUESS I WAS
NEVER REALLY CUT
OUT FOR IT.

EVEN WHEN
I WAS AN AVENGER,
I FELT LIKE AN
IMPOSTOR.

MAYBE THAT'S
WHY ME AND *TASKY*
HIT IT OFF SO WELL IN
THE FIRST PLACE. *FINALLY*
I'D MET SOMEBODY
LOWER THAN ME. 'CAUSE
NO MATTER WHAT
I DID--



--IT WAS LIKE
THERE WAS ALWAYS
THIS THING INSIDE
ME PULLING ME BACK,
OUT OF THE
LIGHT.

MAYBE THAT'S
WHAT KRAVEN
WAS TRYING TO TELL
US, PUTTING THIS WHOLE
SHEBANG TOGETHER.
THAT NO MATTER HOW
HARD WE TRY--



--WE'RE ALL JUST VICIOUS, BLOODTHIRSTY BEASTS ON THE INSIDE.

YEAH, HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN...

FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T POUR ONE OUT FOR YOUR LOST VALOR, ANT--YOU AND YOUR PAL TASKMASTER ARE THE REASON ALL OF US ARE EVEN IN THIS MESS!



TASKMASTER AND ME--PALS? HEH. YEAH, GUESS I USED TO THINK SO, TOO...



...BUT THEN HE SOLD ME OUT.

STUCK ME IN HERE JUST LIKE ALL OF YOU.



"I IMAGINE HE'S LONG GONE BY NOW."

?SIGH? THOUGHT I TRAINED YOU BOYS BETTER THAN THAT.

SEE? HERE WE ARE. MY END OF THE DEAL, LIZARD--I GOT YOU INSIDE THE PARK.

AND YOU SSSAID MY PLAN WAS FLIMSSSY?! HOW LONG BEFORE THEY--



PROBABLY ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES. I DESIGNED THE GUARD DETAILS HERE, REMEMBER? THEY'RE HOLDING YOUR KID AND HIS HOT NANNY IN THE ZOO. IF YOU HURRY YOU CAN--



HEY! WHAT ABOUT OUR ARRANGEMENTS? WHERE'S THE DAMN ANTIDOTE?!

TIME.

HUH?



THE
ANTIDOTE ISSS
TIME, TASSKMASTER.
THE SSSIDE EFFECTSSS
OF THE INJECTION
SHOULD PASSSS WITHIN
TWENTY-FOUR
HOURS.

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!



I REALLY
SHOULDA SEEN
THAT COMING.

"BUT HEY, THAT'S
WHAT YOU GET
FOR *TRUSTING*
SOMEONE, RIGHT?"



GUESS IT
DOESN'T
REALLY MATTER
ANYMORE--

--WE'RE
ALL GONNA
DIE IN HERE
SOON ANYWAY. NO
POINT DWELLING
ON PAST
MISTAKES.

YOU
MEAN LIKE
KIDNAPPING
CHILDREN?



HEY, YOU
AIN'T GONNA HEAR
ME SAY I DON'T
DESERVE WHAT'S
COMING.

ALL THAT'S
LEFT IS TO STAY
SHRUNK DOWN TO ANT-
SIZE AND HOPE NONE OF
THOSE HUNTERS' TRACKING
COMPUTERS FIND ME.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO
JOIN. I COULD
USE A FR--

ARE YOU
KIDDING ME? YOU'RE
NOT GOING ANYWHERE,
ANT--NOT UNTIL I GET
SOME *ANSWERS*! YOU
SAID YOU KNEW THE
TRUTH ABOUT THIS
PLACE.



WELL, I'VE
GOT PEOPLE
COUNTING ON ME. I
HAVE TO FIND THEM
AND THEN WE HAVE
TO GET OUT OF
HERE!



YOU POOR, DUMB IDIOT.
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT,
DO YOU? THERE *IS* NO
GETTING OUT.

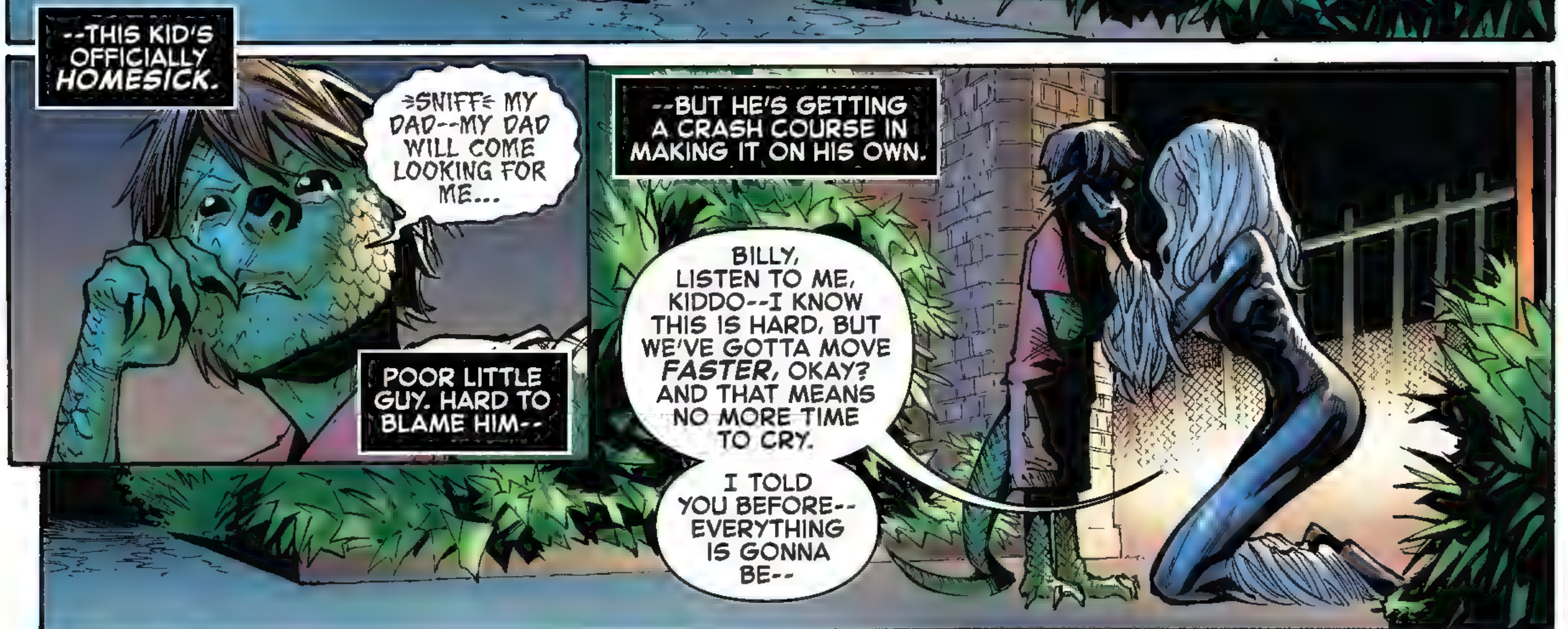
HOWEVER
BAD YOU THINK
THIS IS, SPIDEY?
I PROMISE
YOU--



"--IT'S ABOUT TO GET A WHOLE LOT WORSE."

THIS CANNOT GET ANY WORSE.

TRAPPED IN A ZOO, ENEMIES ALL AROUND US, AND PERHAPS MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL--



--THIS KID'S OFFICIALLY HOMESICK.

≡SNIFF≡ MY DAD--MY DAD WILL COME LOOKING FOR ME...

--BUT HE'S GETTING A CRASH COURSE IN MAKING IT ON HIS OWN.

POOR LITTLE GUY. HARD TO BLAME HIM--

BILLY, LISTEN TO ME, KIDDO--I KNOW THIS IS HARD, BUT WE'VE GOTTA MOVE **FASTER**, OKAY? AND THAT MEANS NO MORE TIME TO CRY.

I TOLD YOU BEFORE--EVERYTHING IS GONNA BE--



--OKAY.



HIDE.

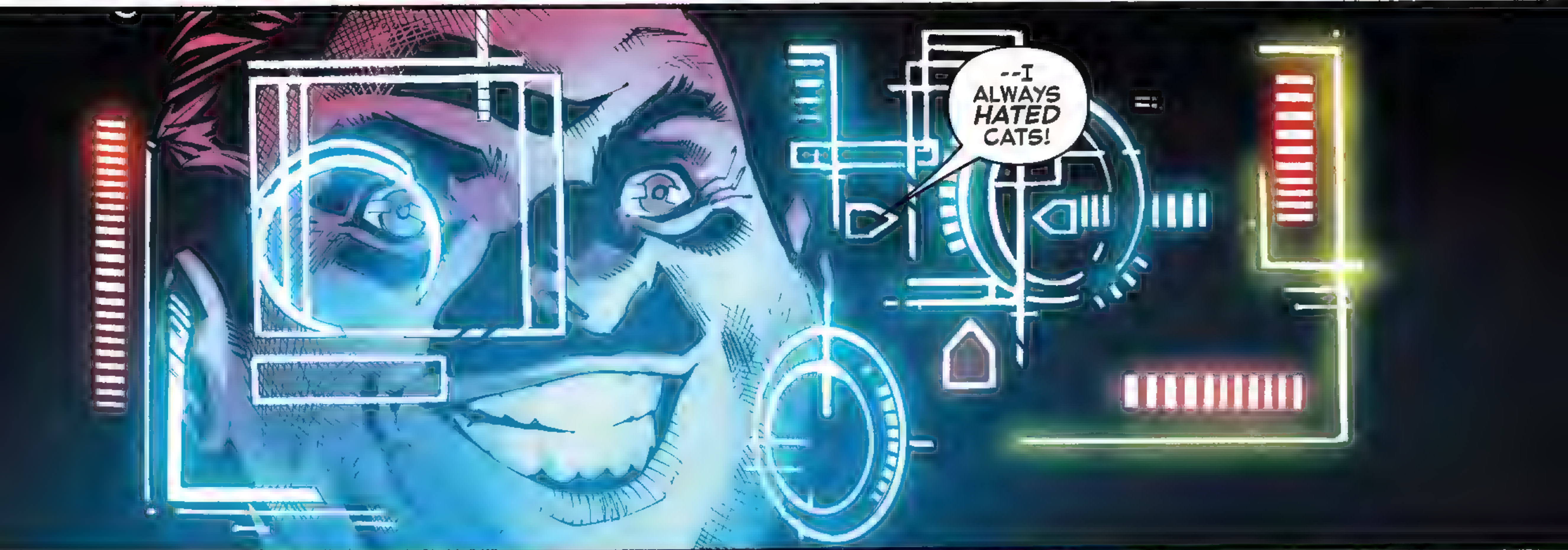


WELL, WELL, WELL, LOOK AT THIS--

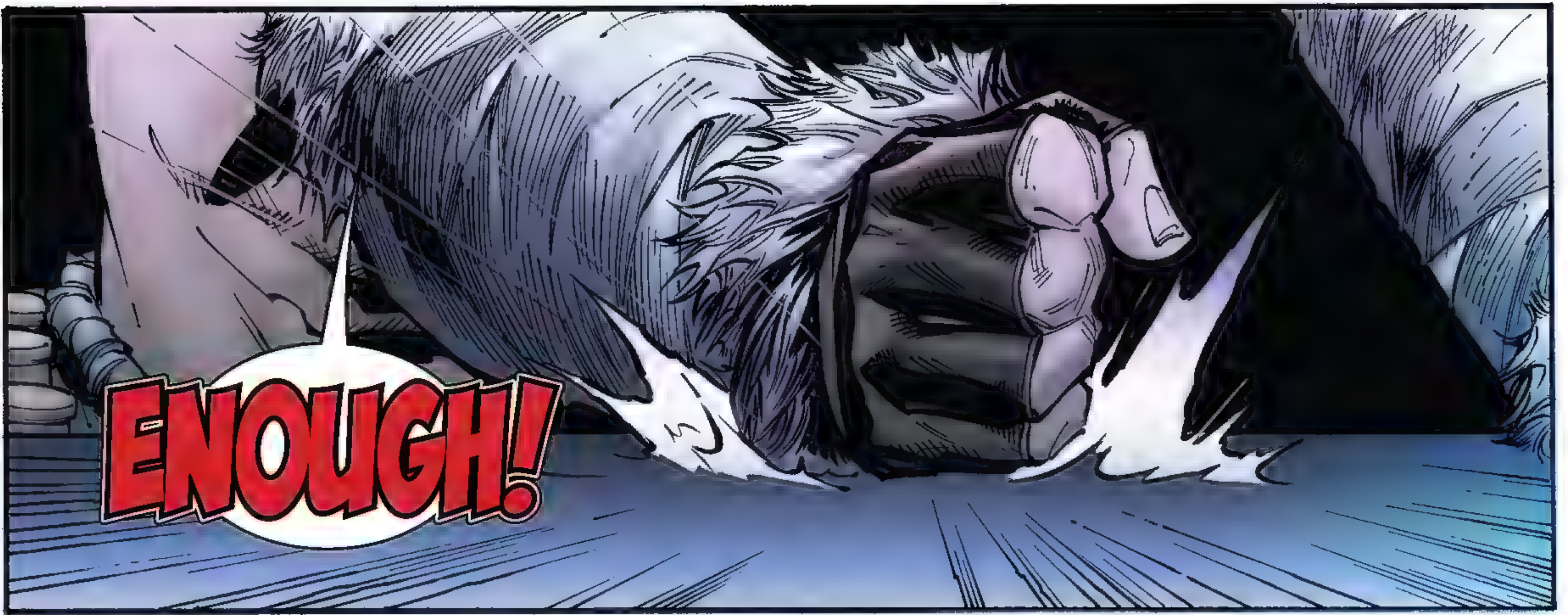


YEAH, BUDDY. YOU DID. YOU DID.

FANTASTIC--



--I ALWAYS HATED CATS!







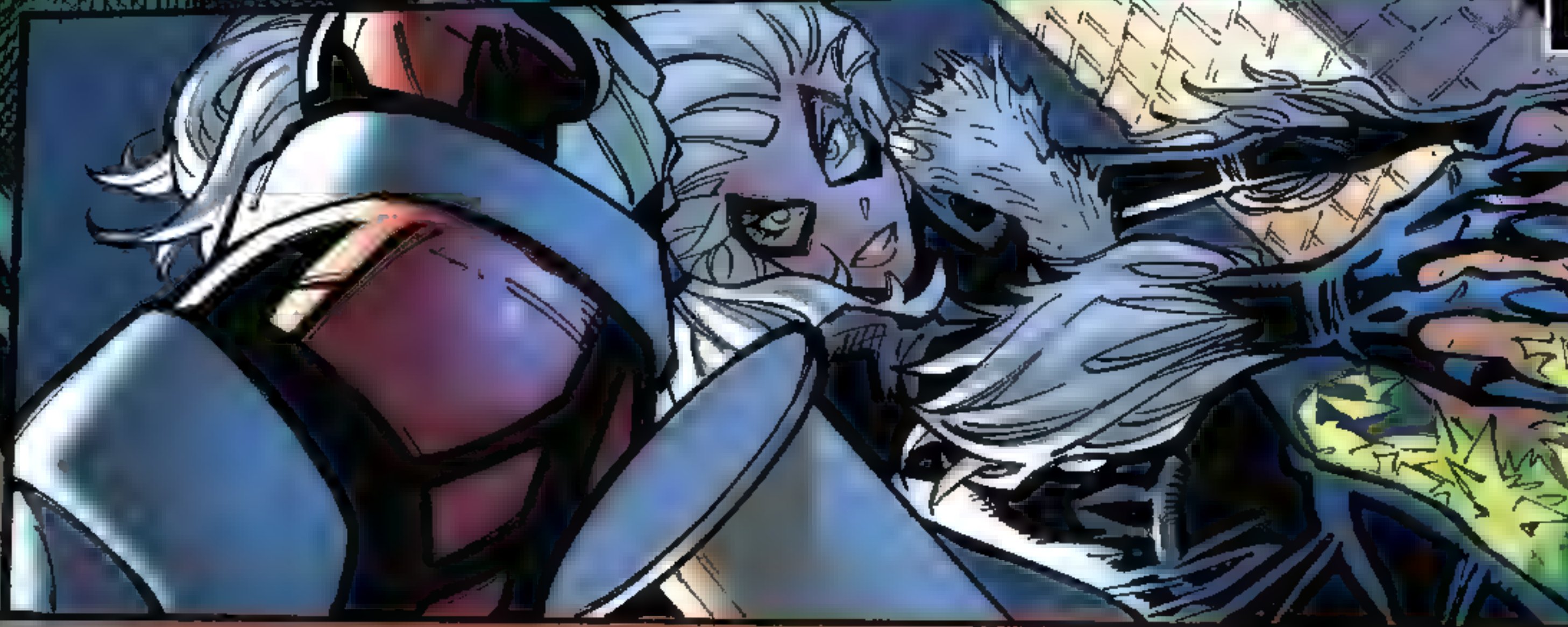
STAY STILL,
DANG IT! I'M
TRYIN' TO
KILL YA!

AND HE'S
GONNA IF THIS
KEEPS UP.

THINK FASTER,
FELICIA. YOU'RE
NOT THE ONLY
ONE IN TROUBLE
HERE.

THIS THING IS
TOO TOUGH--CLAWS
AREN'T EVEN PUTTING
A SCRATCH ON HIM.

BUT THEN, I'M
NOT TRYING
TO WIN--



--JUST TRYING
TO GET HIM
AWAY FROM
HERE. AWAY
FROM--



WARNING! ANOTHER TARGET
DETECTED. SCANNING FOR
THREATS--

I SEE IT!
OVER IN THEM
BUSHES!



YOU
THINK YOU
CAN SNEAK UP
ON ME?!

BILLY!



Noooo!

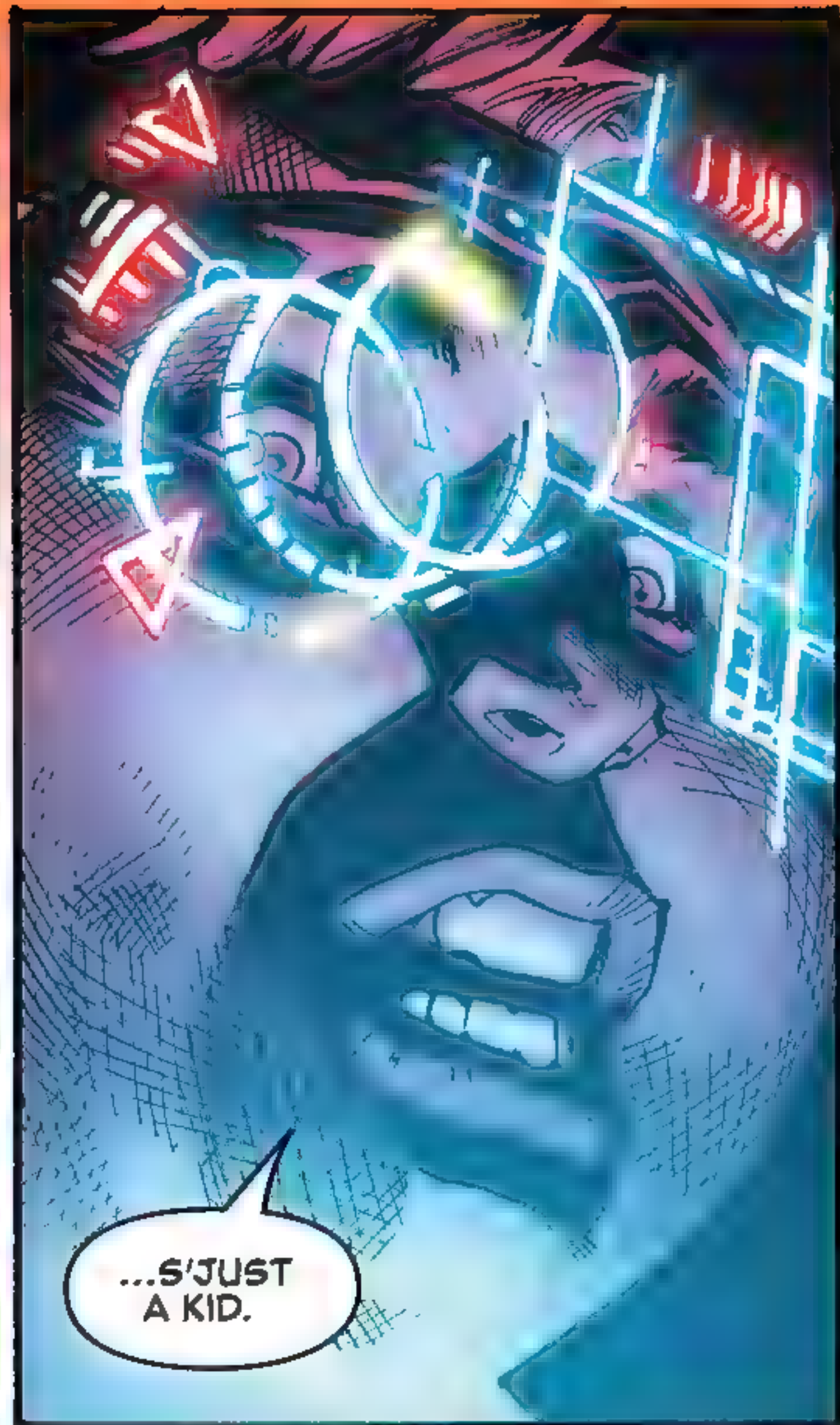
ONE DOWN--



--ONE TA GO. SO, WHADDAWE GOT HERE? ANOTHER LIZARD GUY? ALREADY KILLED ME ONE OF THOSE. LET'S SEE HOW--



--BIG YOU ARE.



...S'JUST A KID.



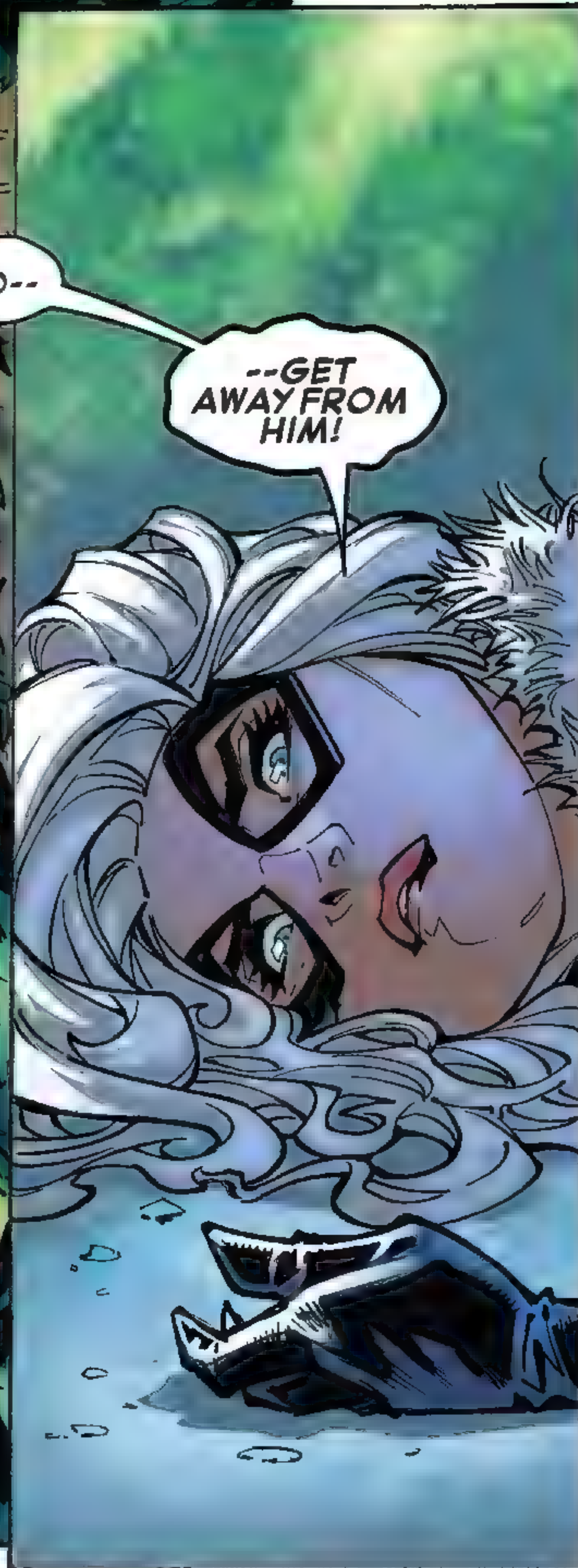
HOW
OLD ARE
YOU, LITTLE
GUY?

T-TWELVE...

NO KIDDIN'?
YOU KNOW, I
GOT A BOY
ABOUT YOUR
AGE...

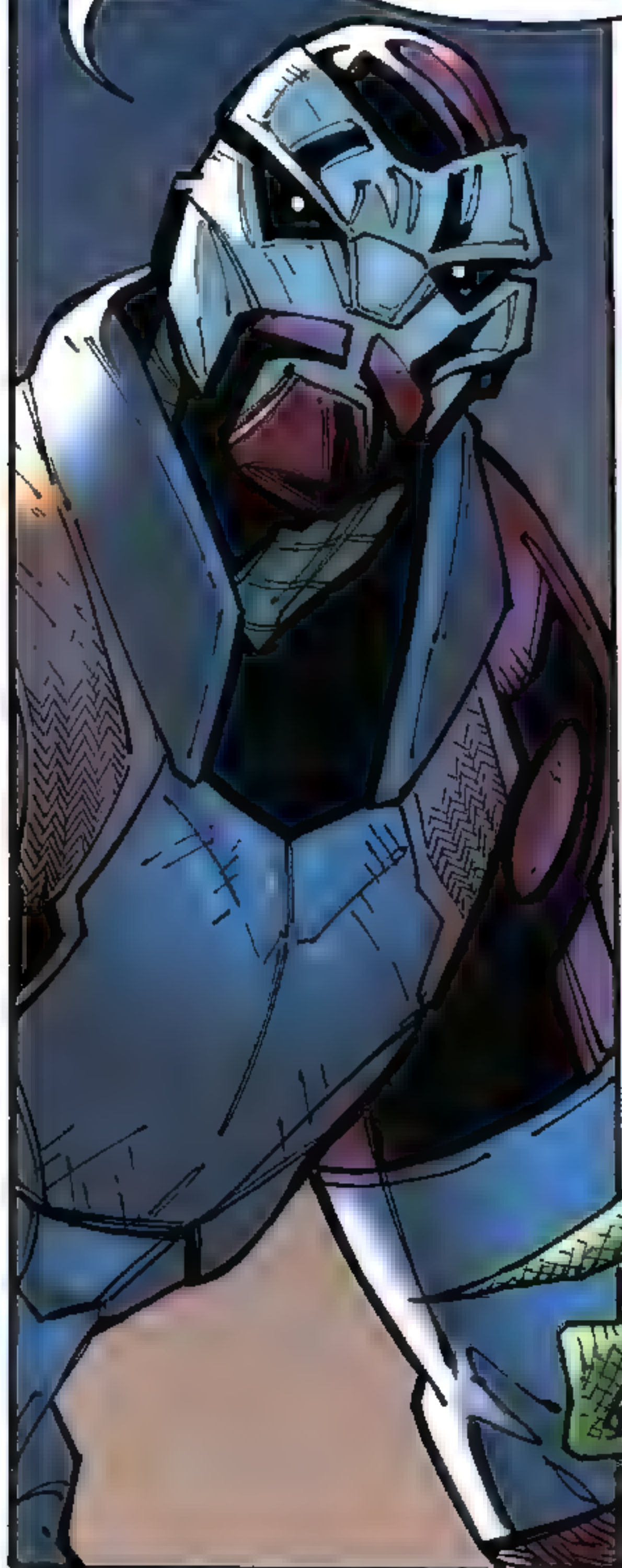
NO--

--GET
AWAY FROM
HIM!



HEY,
LADY--LOOK,
I'M SORRY!
I DIDN'T
KNOW.

WE
WERE SUPPOSED
TO BE HUNTING BAD
GUYS--MONSTERS.
I DIDN'T--
I MEAN--



--NOBODY
SAID ANYTHING
ABOUT ANY
KIDS!



FELICIA,
ARE YOU--
ARE YOU
OKAY?

Y-YEAH,
KIDDO. I'M
GOOD--



MIGHT
JUST NEED A
LITTLE HAND
FROM HERE
ON OUT--

"---LEAST 'TIL THE REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE."

HE'S GONE

MY SON, BILLY, WAS HERE. WHERE TASKMASTER TOLD ME HE WOULD BE. BUT ONCE AGAIN, JUST LIKE ALWAYS--

--I WASN'T ABLE TO SAVE HIM.

CAN'T TELL WHAT HAPPENED HERE, BUT IT WAS **BLOODY**. AND CAN'T SEEM TO PICK UP HIS SCENT, WHICH IS--

UNSETTLING, ISN'T IT?

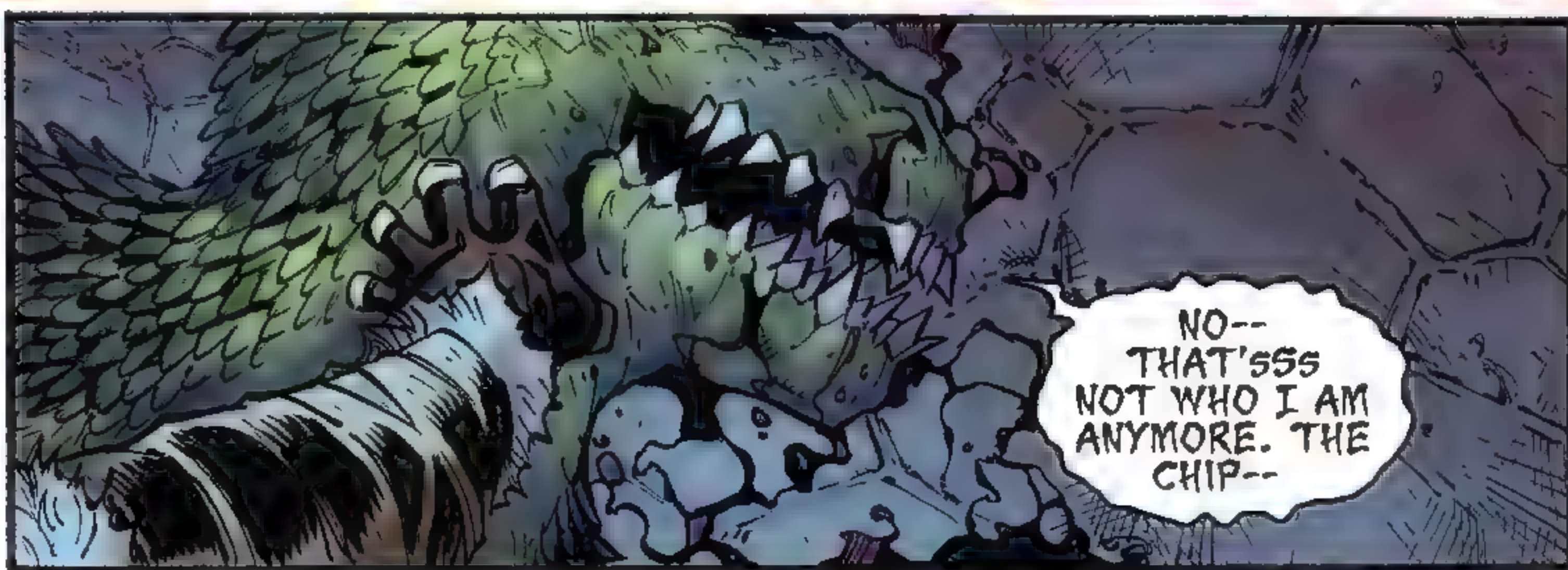
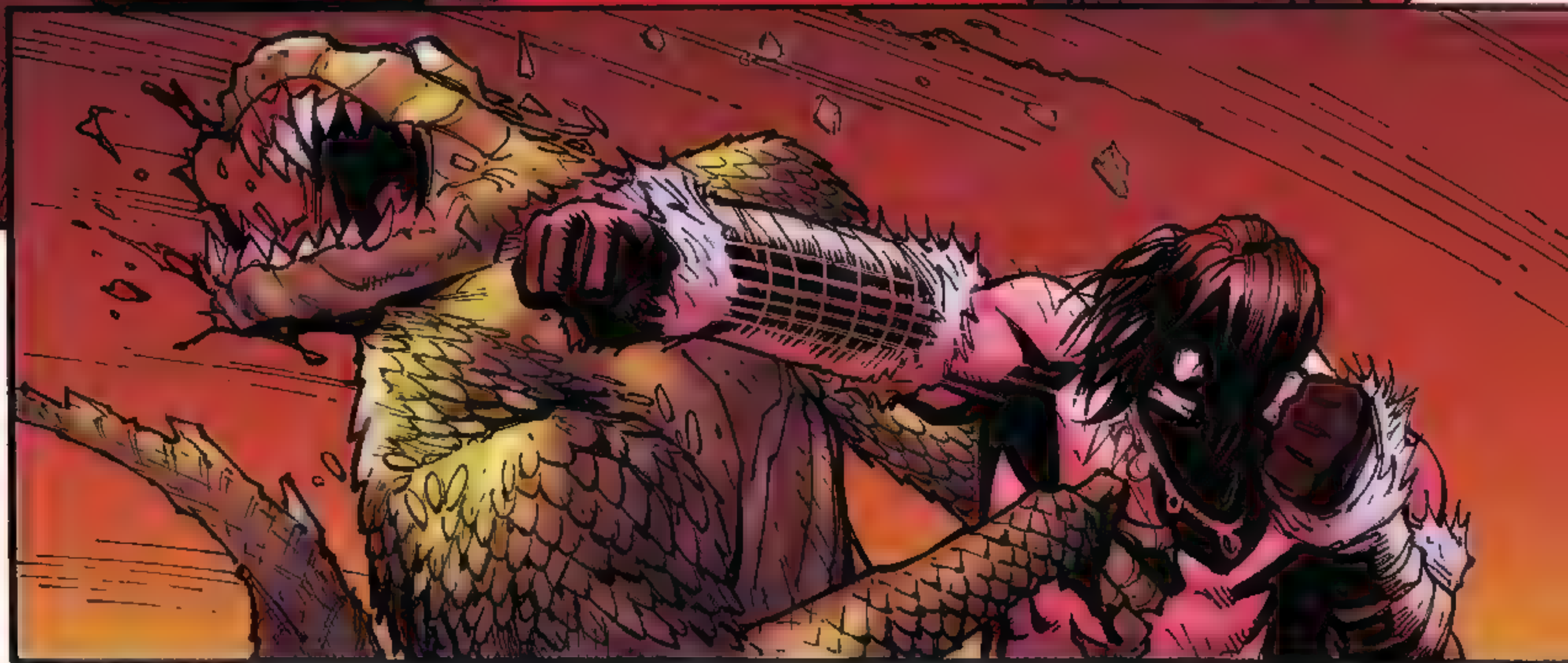
WHEN NATURE LEAVES ITS MARK.

BUT THEN, YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT, DON'T YOU?

WHERE'SSS MY SSSON?!

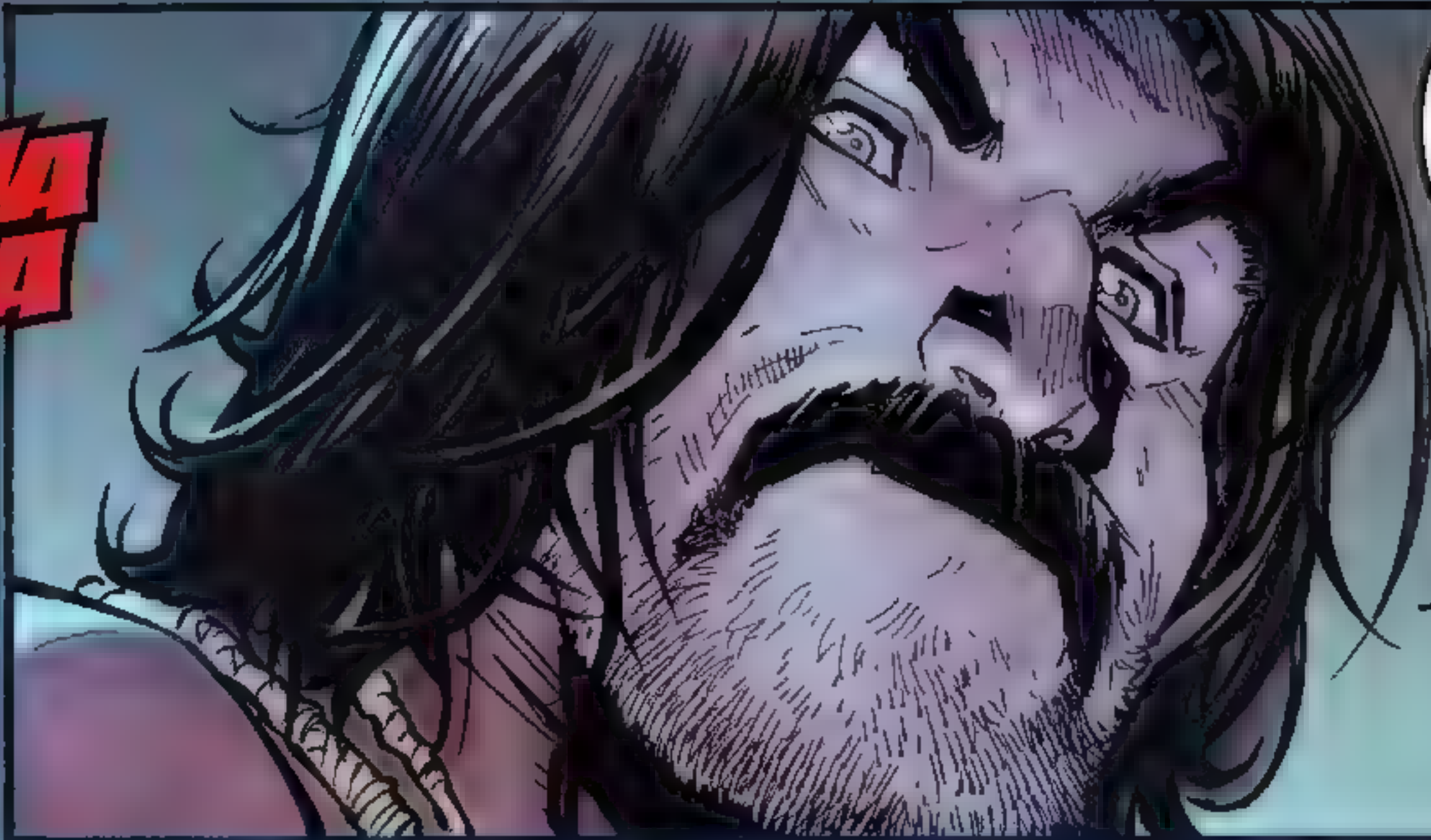
I WISH I KNEW, LIZARD--

--BUT YOU'RE THE FAR GREATER PRIZE.



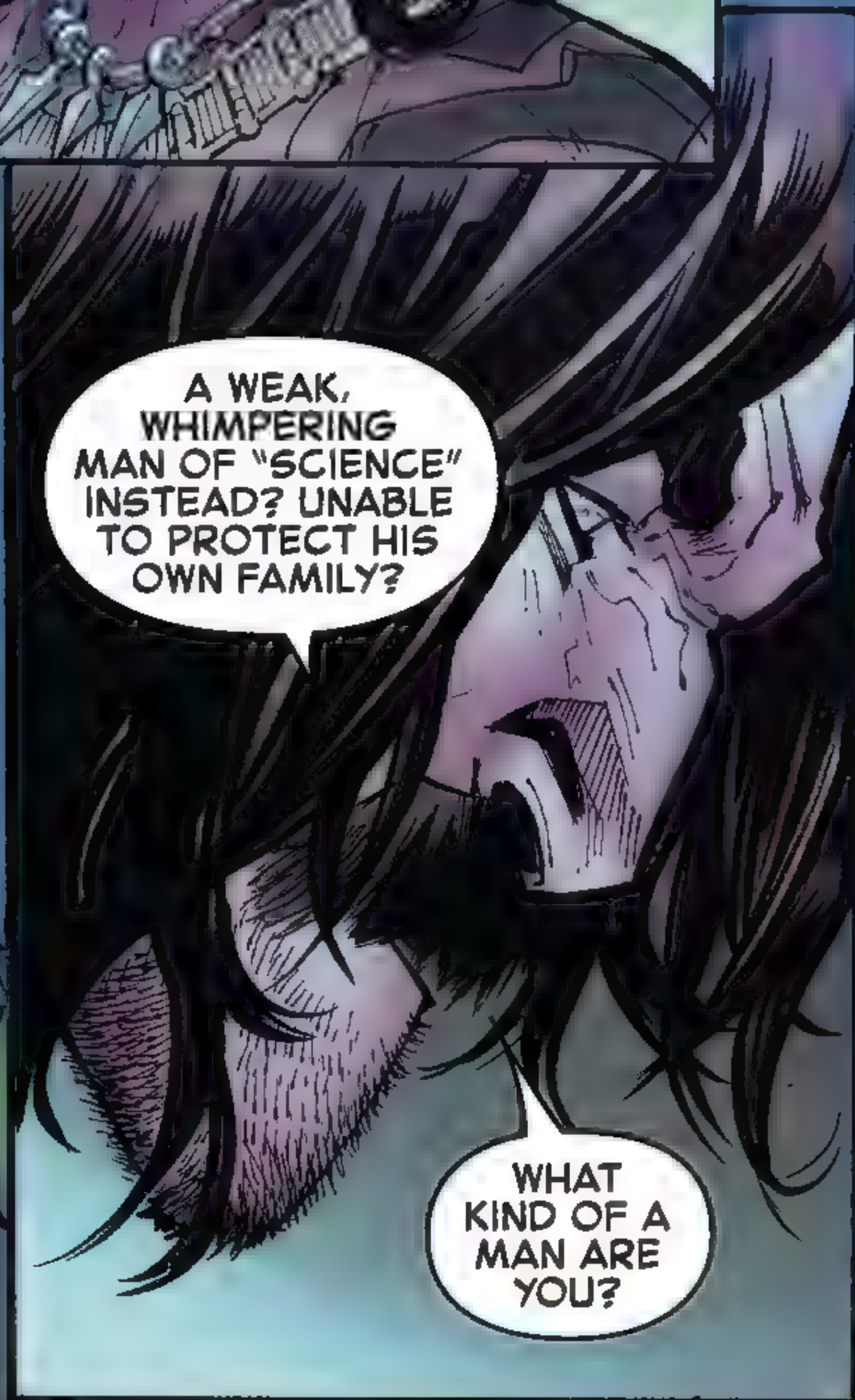


HA
HA
HA
HA



YOU PATHETIC FOOL!
YOU HAVE THE POWER OF
A GOD INSIDE YOU. A
TOTEM MADE OF FLESH--
AND WHAT DO YOU
DO WITH IT?

LOCK IT
AWAY--USE YOUR
CORRUPT SCIENCE
TO CAGE YOUR
TRUE ANIMAL SELF?
CHOOSE TO
BE THIS?



A WEAK,
WHIMPERING
MAN OF "SCIENCE"
INSTEAD? UNABLE
TO PROTECT HIS
OWN FAMILY?

WHAT
KIND OF A
MAN ARE
YOU?



WHAT
KIND OF A
FATHER
ARE YOU?!



THIS SORT
OF BLASPHEMY
CANNOT STAND. I WILL
SHOW YOU THE COST
OF DENYING YOUR
SUPERIOR NATURE.

THIS SON
OF YOURS IS
HIDING SOMEWHERE
IN THESE TREES. I
AM GOING TO
FIND HIM...

...AND WHEN
I DO, I WILL TEAR
HIM LIMB FROM
LIMB. I WILL MOUNT
HIS HEAD ON MY
WALL.



NO--NO,
WAIT--

AND
BEST OF
ALL--



--I AM
GOING TO
MAKE YOU
WATCH.





--WAR AND BLOODSHED.
HUNTERS VERSUS THE
HUNTED. TO THE END.

--I'M SURE
SOMEONE WILL
ASSIST YOU
SHORTLY.

"THAT'S
ALL KRAVEN
WANTS."



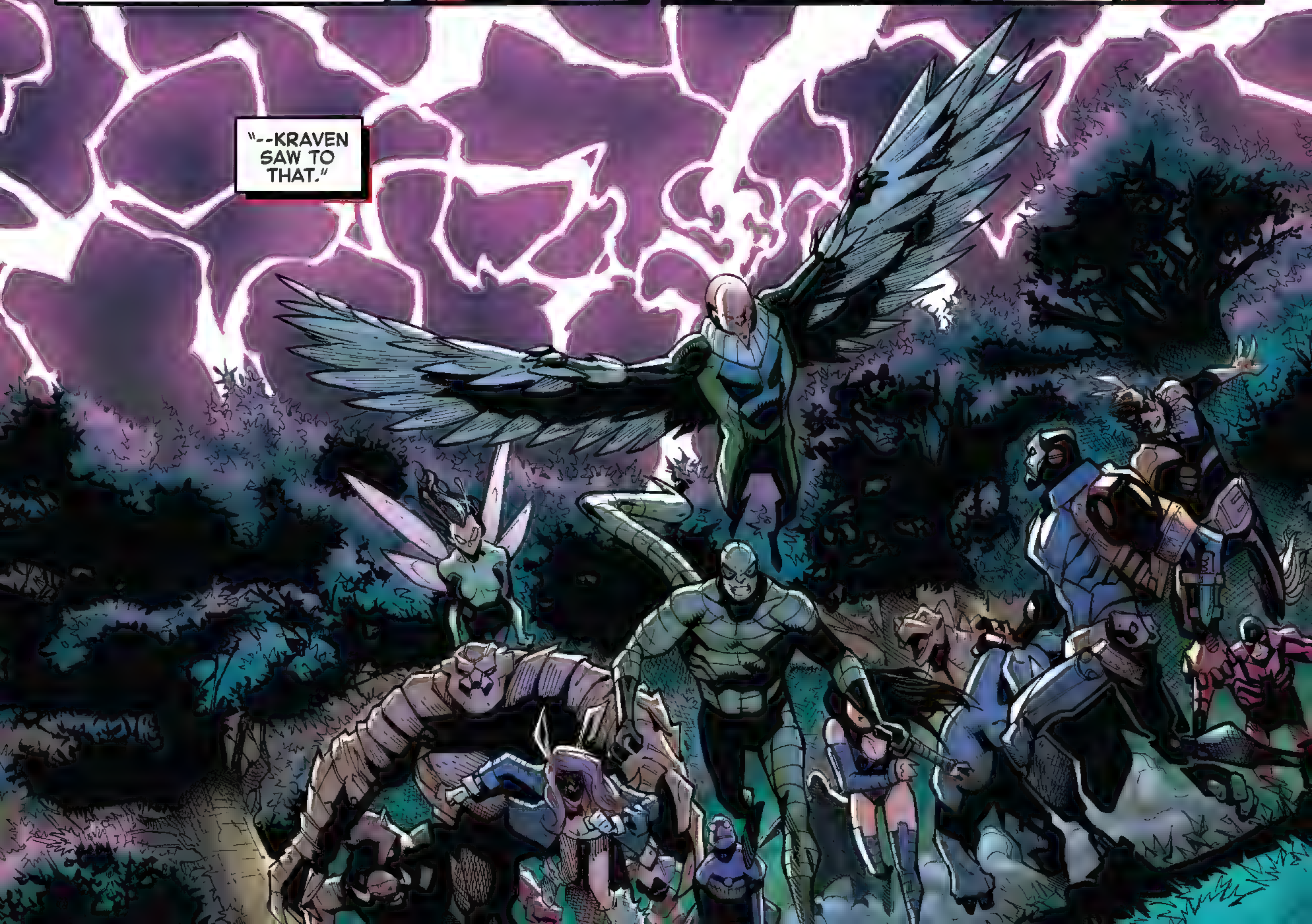
SO
WHAT?

LOOK, I
TRIED TO STOP THOSE
IDIOTS FROM FOLLOWING
VULTURE. THERE'S NOTHING ELSE
I CAN DO IF THEY WANT TO GO
AFTER THOSE THINGS. THEY DON'T
HAVE A FIGHTING CHANCE.



THERE ARE
INNOCENT PEOPLE
IN DANGER. I HAVE
TO HELP THEM
FIRST.

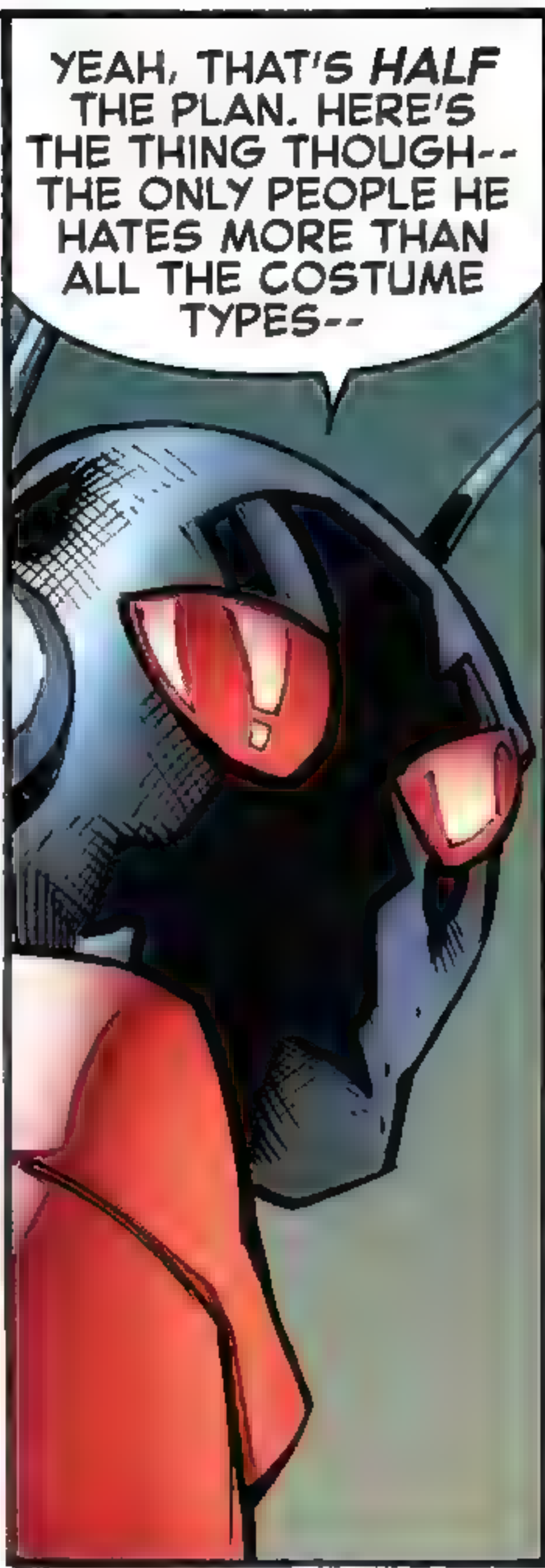
YEAH, THAT'S
WHAT YOU DON'T
GET, SPIDEY--VULTURE
AND HIS PEOPLE? THEY
DO HAVE A CHANCE--



--KRAVEN
SAW TO
THAT."



WAIT--
WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?
KRAVEN STUCK THEM
IN HERE TO GET
KILLED BY THOSE
HUNTERS--



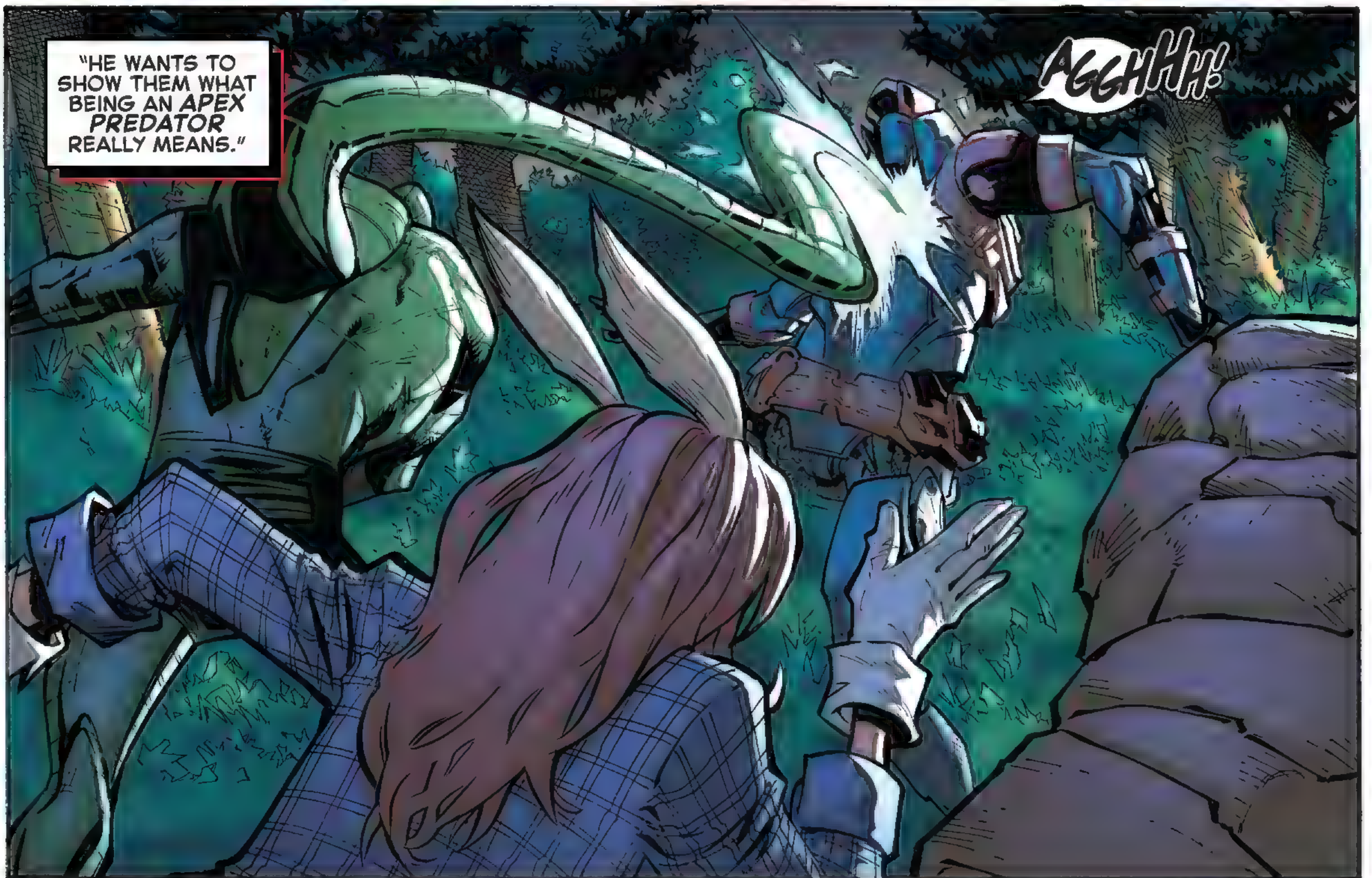
YEAH, THAT'S HALF
THE PLAN. HERE'S
THE THING THOUGH--
THE ONLY PEOPLE HE
HATES MORE THAN
ALL THE COSTUME
TYPES--



"--ARE THE
HUNTERS.

"THOSE SOFT RICH
IMPOSTORS WHO
WANNA IMAGINE
THEMSELVES AS
KILLERS ON THE
WEEKENDS.

ALL RIGHT
THEN, YOU
FREAKS! THIS IS
MORE LIKE IT! YOU
WANNA FIGHT?!
YOU'LL GET A--



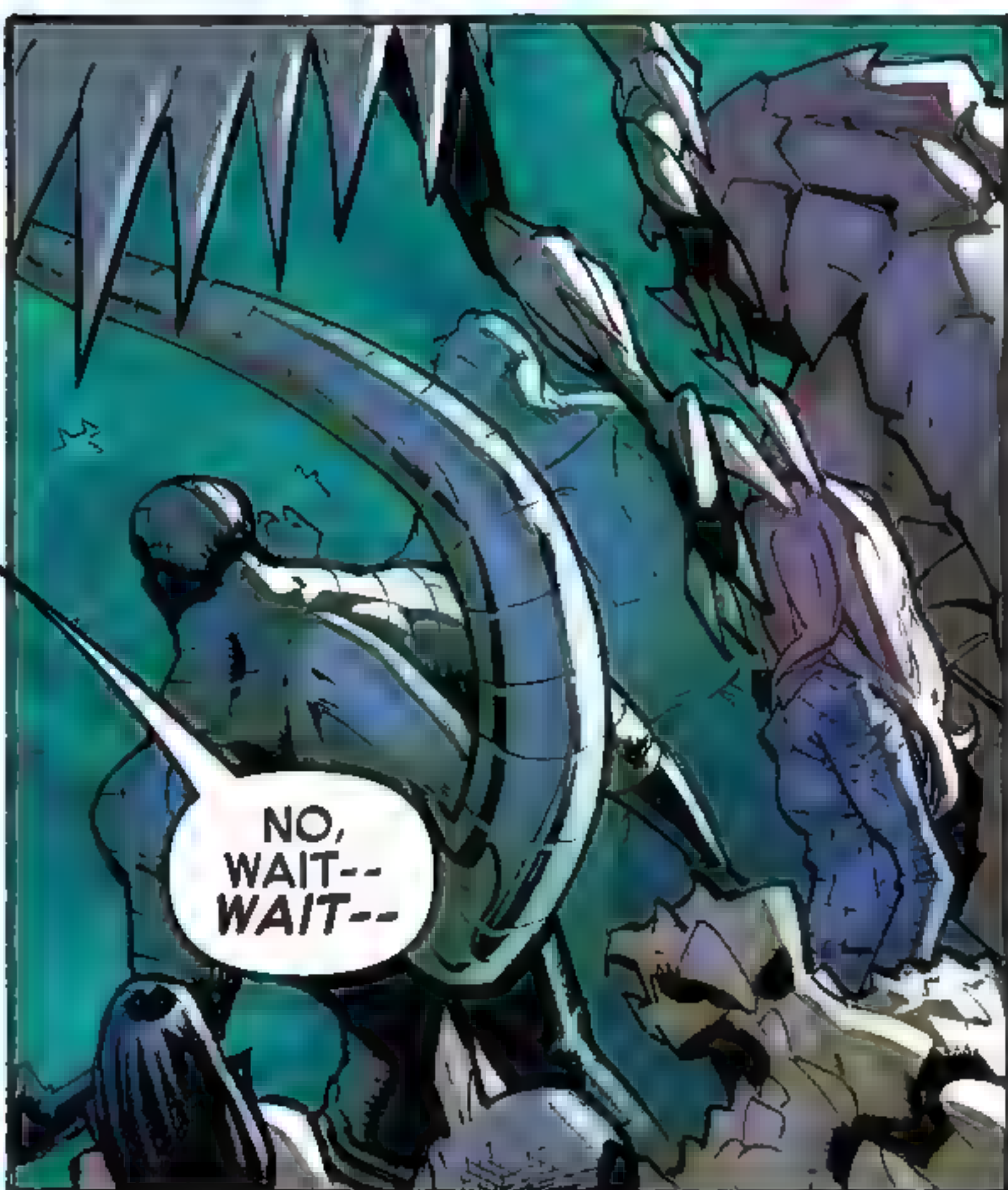
"HE WANTS TO
SHOW THEM WHAT
BEING AN APEX
PREDATOR
REALLY MEANS."

AGGHHH!



WAIT A
SECOND--THAT
HURT. HOW
DID THAT
HURT?

TIME TO
FEED, MY
DARLINGS.



NO,
WAIT--
WAIT--



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND--
THESE THINGS ARE
DRONES, RIGHT?

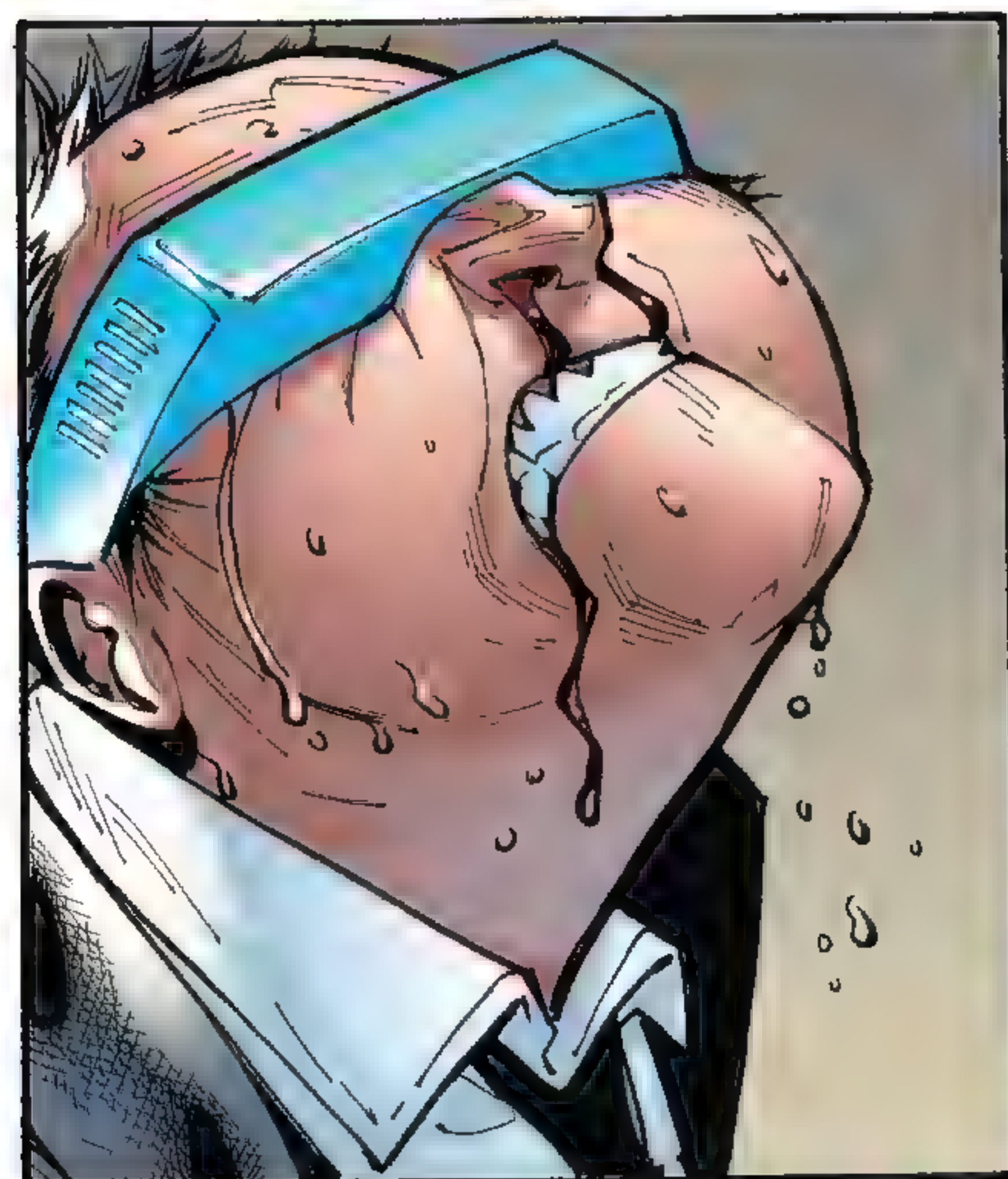
EVEN IF YOU
DESTROY THEM, THE
JERKS PILOTING THEM
ARE OFF SOMEPLACE
ELSE, SAFE AND--

"WRONG. THESE
GUYS THINK
THEY'RE **SAFE**.
THINK THEY'RE
INDESTRUCTIBLE.

"BUT KRAVEN
WANTS THEM TO
LEARN THE DANGERS
OF THE HUNT THE
HARD WAY.



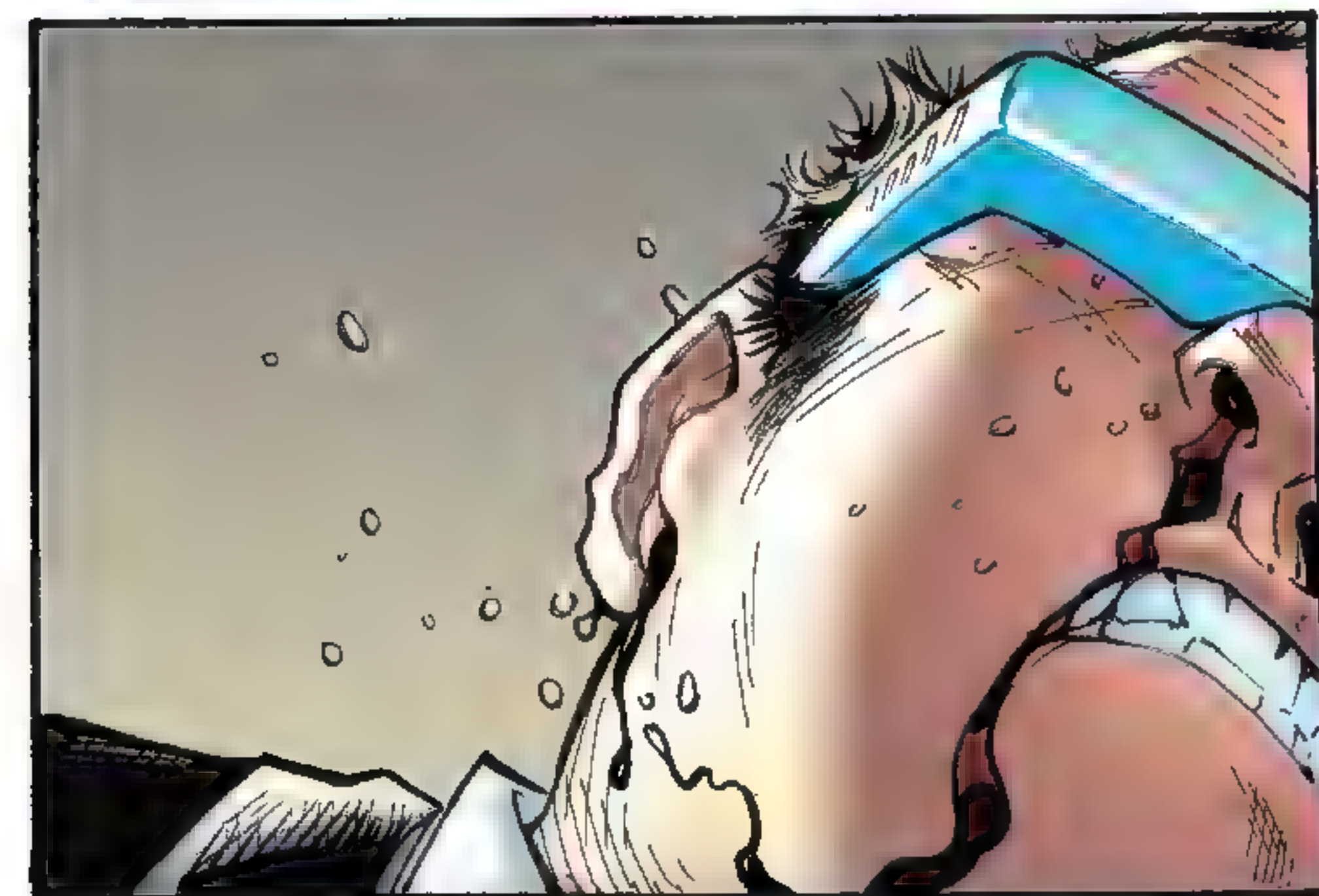
"TEACH 'EM THAT
CHASING DOWN
DANGEROUS BEASTS
MEANS THE TABLES
CAN TURN FAST.



"THE VR VISORS THEY'RE
WEARING BACK OFF-SITE,
THEY'RE WIRED RIGHT INTO
THEIR **BRAINS**. BUNCHA
SCIENCE, BUT BASICALLY--



"DIE IN
HERE..."





"DIE OUT THERE."



OH GOD.

HE'S GOING TO KILL THEM ALL.

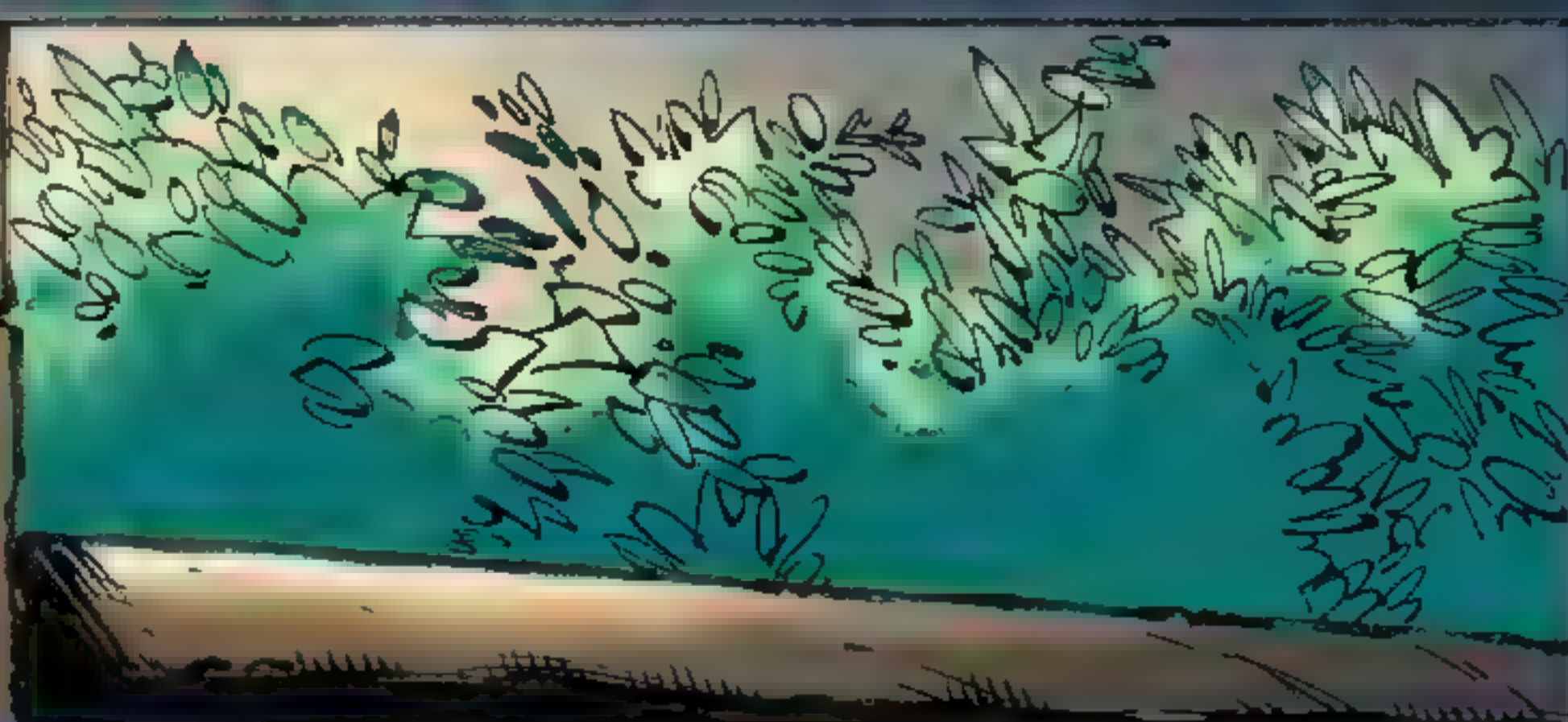


WHERE IS HE?!

WHERE DO YOU THINK, SPIDEY? IF YOU WERE HIM--



"--WHERE WOULD YOU BE?"



KRAVEN!



THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED, ISN'T IT, YOU PSYCHOPATH? JUST ME AND--

TESTING, TESTING, IS THIS THING ON?!

--ARCADE?!

HEYA, SPIDEY,
LONG TIME, NO KILL.
YOU ENJOYING THE PARK
TONIGHT? I'D LOVE TO GET
YOUR FEEDBACK--WE'RE
CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR
WAYS TO IMPROVE OUR
METHODS OF TORTURE
AND--

I DON'T
HAVE *TIME* FOR
YOUR GAMES RIGHT
NOW--WHERE'S
KRAVEN?!

WOW,
SOMEBODY
WANTS TO SPEAK
TO MY MANAGER
ALREADY? WELL,
TOO BAD--

--THE BIG
GUY IS OTHERWISE
OCCUPIED. MOSTLY
LOOKING ALL
STOIC AND
MYSTERIOUS.

BUT
DON'T YOU
WORRY, WALL-
CRAWLER--

--'CAUSE I
CAME UP WITH
SOMETHING PRETTY
GREAT TO KEEP YOU
ENTERTAINED WHILE
YOU WAIT FOR
HIM.

AT FIRST I
WORRIED--WOULD
IT BE A LITTLE TOO
DERIVATIVE? SELF-
REFERENTIAL?

BUT THE
REALITY IS, IT'S
JUST NOT A KRAVEN-
SPIDEY-HUNTY THING
WITHOUT YOUR OLD
PAL--

VERMIN...

'SRIGHT.
BUT WE'RE NOT
JUST RESTING ON
OUR LAURELS
HERE, WEBS.

LIKE
ANY GOOD
SEQUEL--



20.HU



YOU WASTED
YOUR BEST YEARS
TOILING IN A
LABORATORY
ALONE.



YOU WORKED
NIGHT AND
DAY--



--ONLY TO BE
CHEATED OUT
OF WHAT WAS
RIGHTFULLY
YOURS.



BUT NOW THE
WINDS HAVE
SHIFTED,
HAVEN'T THEY?



CONGRATULATIONS,
VULTURE--

VULTURE!
VULTURE!

VULTURE!
VULTURE!



--YOUR
MOMENT
HAS FINALLY
COME.

I HAVE TO ADMIT,
I'M IMPRESSED.
AFTER ALL--

--IT WAS A PRETTY
IGNOMINIOUS START,
GETTING SNATCHED UP
BY THOSE MERCENARIES.
OH, THE INDIGNITY.

FROM THERE IT WAS A
QUESTION IF YOU'D
EVEN SURVIVE.

BUT I NEVER SHOULD'VE
UNDERESTIMATED
A MAN LIKE YOU--

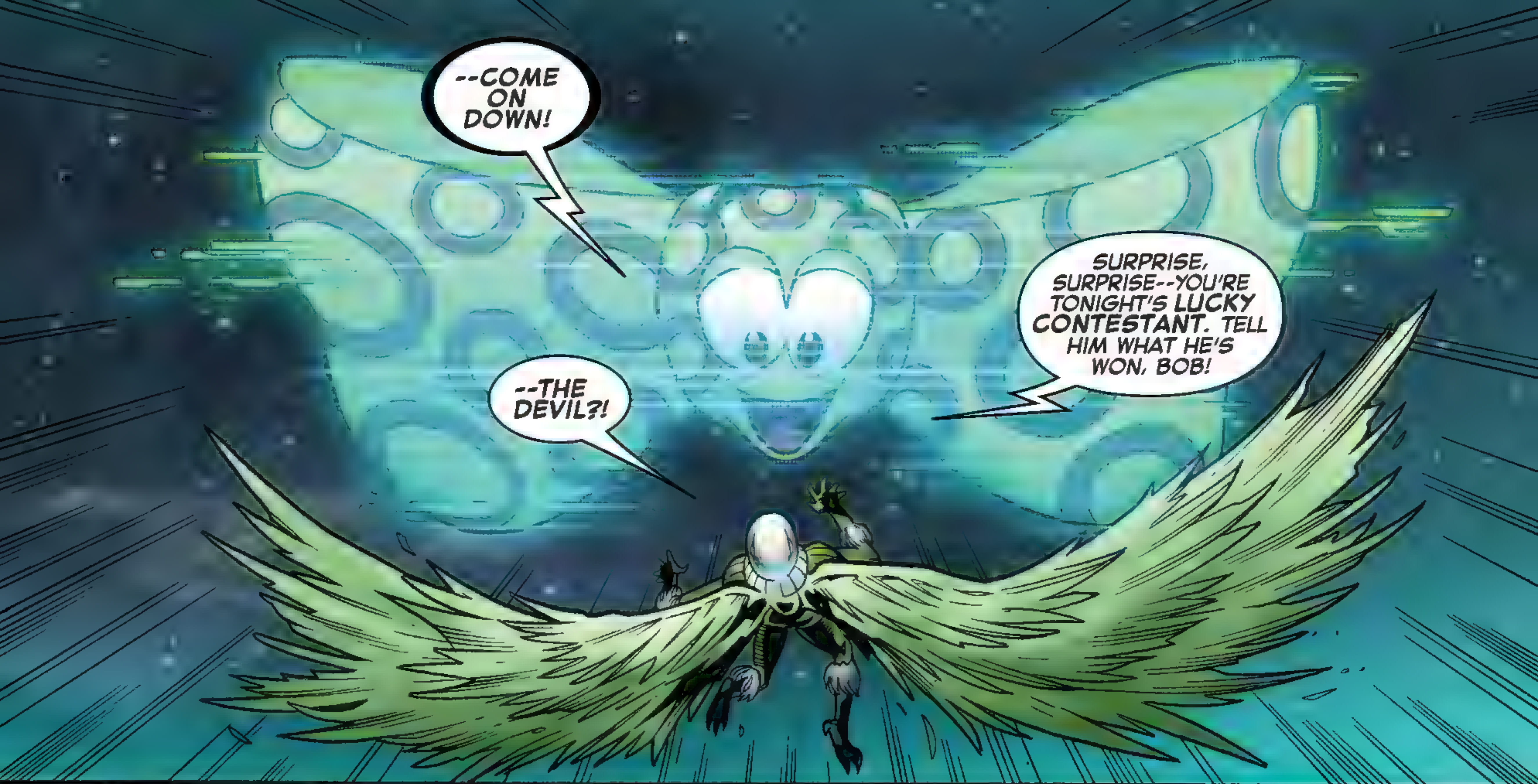
--THE KIND WITH THAT
SPECIAL SOMETHING
THAT SEPARATES
LEADERS FROM
FOLLOWERS.

IT WASN'T
EASY, BUT
YOU'VE MADE
IT SO FAR.

EVEN IF SACRIFICES
HAD TO BE MADE
ALONG THE WAY.
HOW COULD THAT
EVER MATTER--

--IN THE GRAND
SCHEME OF
THINGS?

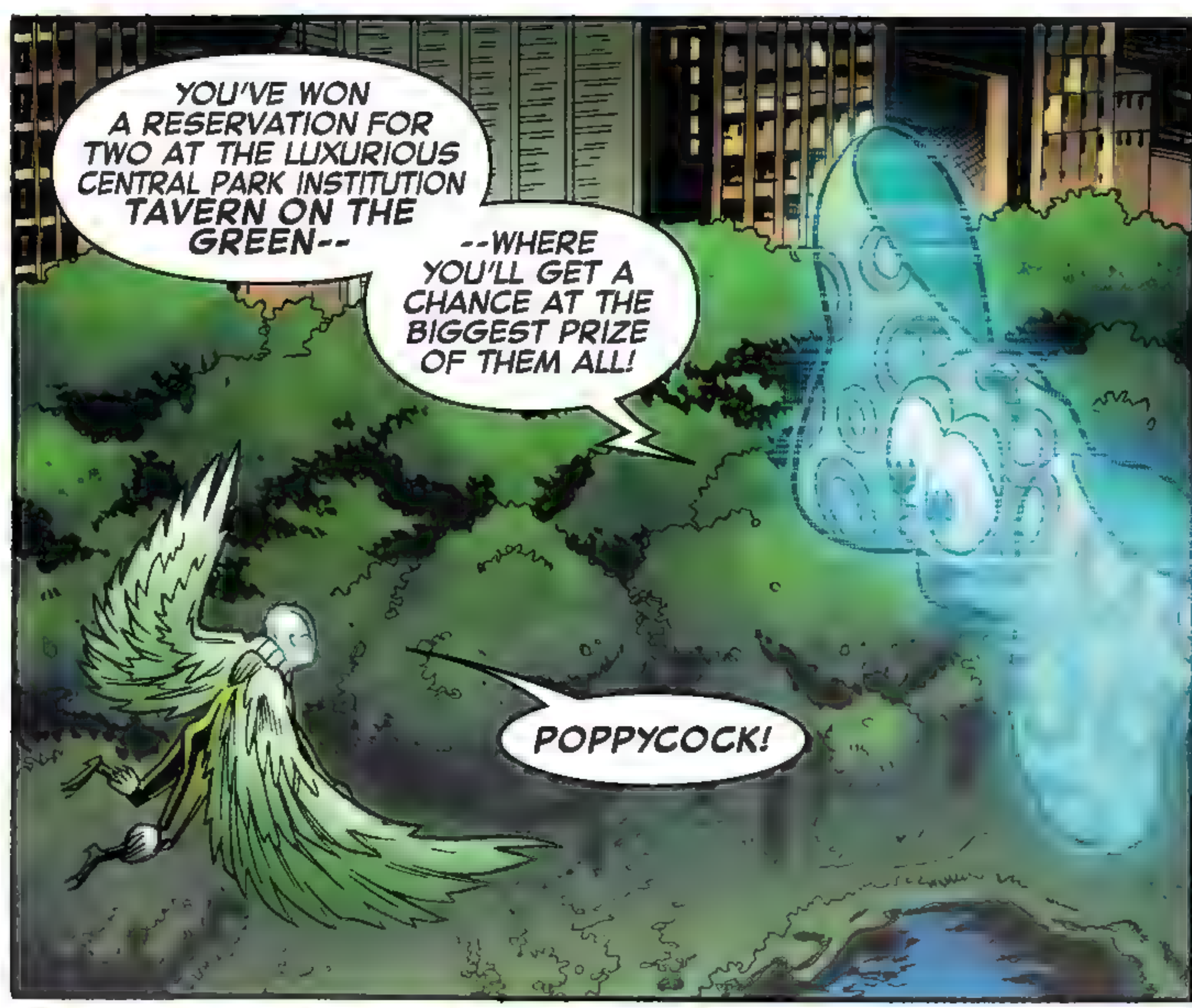
ADRIAN
TOOMES--



--COME ON DOWN!

--THE DEVIL?!

SURPRISE, SURPRISE--YOU'RE TONIGHT'S LUCKY CONTESTANT. TELL HIM WHAT HE'S WON, BOB!



YOU'VE WON A RESERVATION FOR TWO AT THE LUXURIOUS CENTRAL PARK INSTITUTION TAVERN ON THE GREEN--

--WHERE YOU'LL GET A CHANCE AT THE BIGGEST PRIZE OF THEM ALL!

POPPYCOCK!



WHY WOULD I BE STUPID ENOUGH TO GO WHERE YOU TELL ME? THIS IS ANOTHER TRAP-- JUST LIKE THE ONE THAT STUCK ME IN HERE.

OOH, YOU HEAR THAT, FOLKS? LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A REAL HIGH ROLLER HERE...

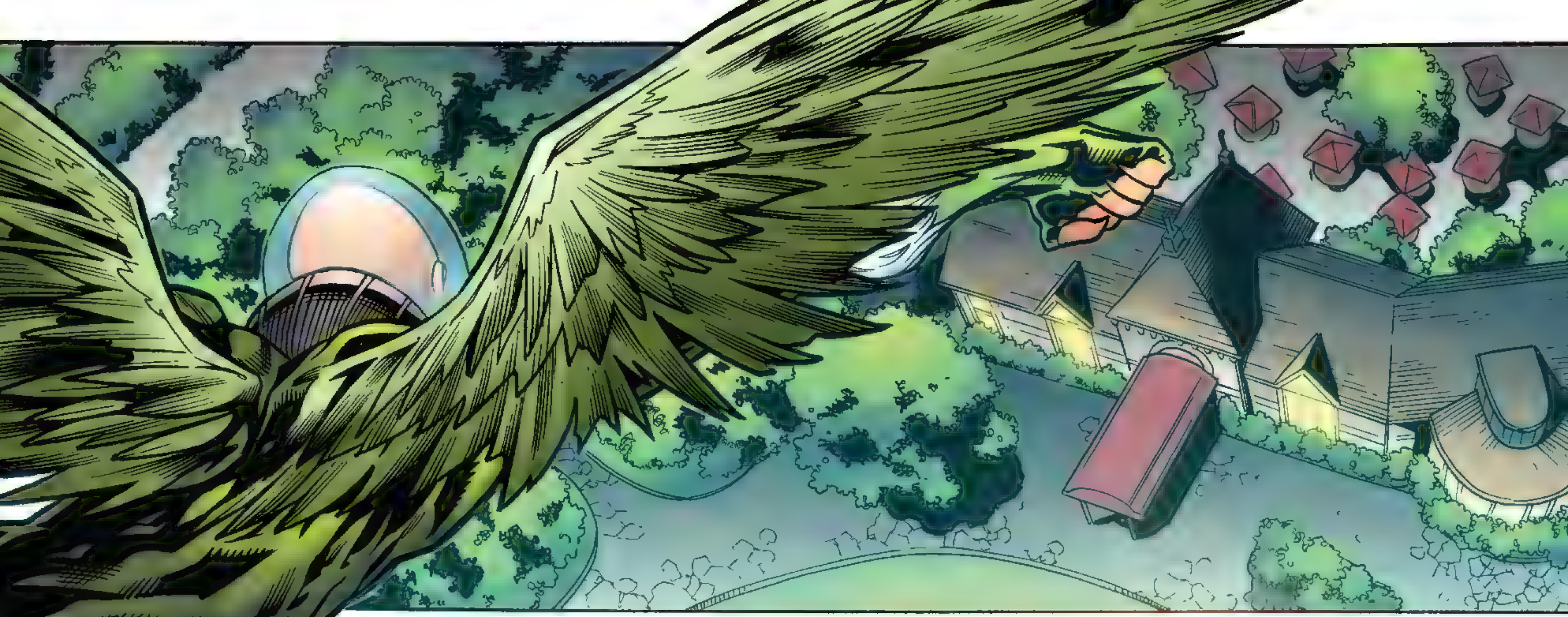


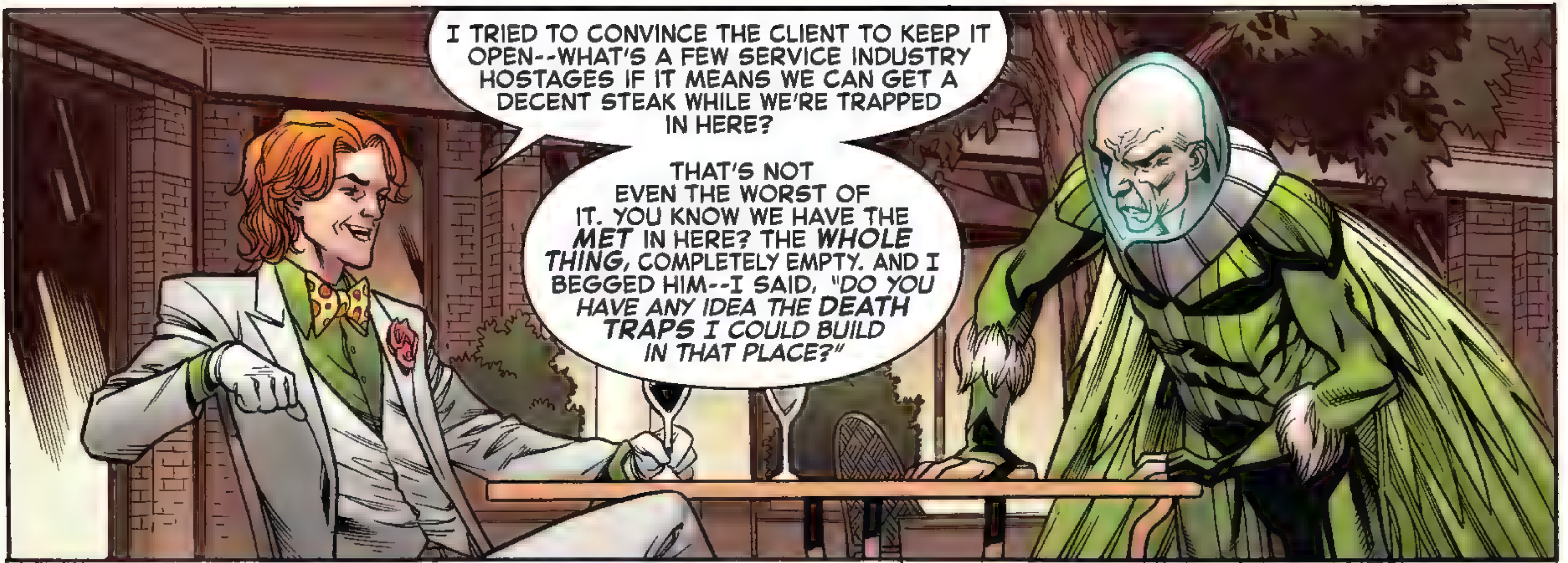
KRAK

ZZZAAATH

MERCY, PLEASE!

PERHAPS HE'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT'S BEHIND DOOR NUMBER TWO!





I TRIED TO CONVINCE THE CLIENT TO KEEP IT OPEN--WHAT'S A FEW SERVICE INDUSTRY HOSTAGES IF IT MEANS WE CAN GET A DECENT STEAK WHILE WE'RE TRAPPED IN HERE?

THAT'S NOT EVEN THE WORST OF IT. YOU KNOW WE HAVE THE **MET** IN HERE? THE **WHOLE THING**, COMPLETELY EMPTY. AND I BEGGED HIM--I SAID, "DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA THE **DEATH TRAPS** I COULD BUILD IN THAT PLACE?"



BUT KRAVEN IS NOTHING IF NOT A SLAVE TO THE BRAND.



KRAVEN...

OKAY, YEAH, BETTER GET YOU UP TO SPEED. I KNOW WE DIDN'T DO A VERY GOOD JOB KEEPING YOU CLUED IN WHILE WE WERE BEATING YOU UP AND THROWING YOU IN A CELL. THINGS HAVE GOTTEN A LITTLE CONVOLUTED, SO PAY ATTENTION.

KRAVEN HIRED TWO MERCS--

TASKMASTER AND THE **BLACK ANT**.



S'RIGHT. KRAVEN HIRED TASKMASTER AND THE **BLACK ANT** TO **KIDNAP** YOU AND EVENTUALLY STICK YOU HERE IN CENTRAL PARK, UNDER A FORCE FIELD, WHERE YOU'RE BEING CHASED BY KILLER ROBOT DRONES PILOTED BY WEALTHY AND ALMOST IMPOSSIBLY RUDE TROPHY HUNTERS.

OKAY, MAYBE IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY **STRAIGHT-FORWARD**.



HOW COULD KRAVEN--WE WERE **PARTNERS** ONCE! WE WERE IN THE **SINISTER SIX** TOGETHER! WHATEVER HAPPENED TO **LOYALTY**??!

YEAH, CAN'T BELIEVE THE GUY WHO CALLS HIMSELF "THE HUNTER" TURNED ON THE GUY IN A BIRD SUIT.

AND YOU--

I'LL **KILL** YOU FOR THIS!

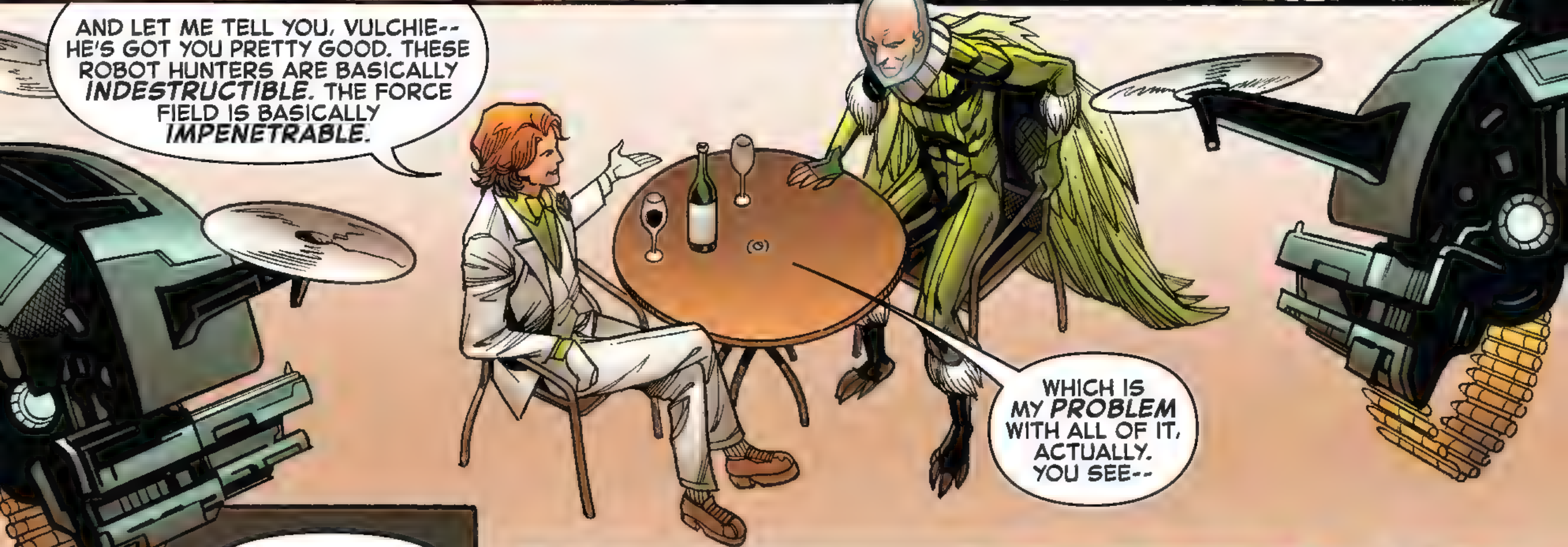
WHOA, WHOA, DON'T BLAME ME--





--I'M JUST
THE HEAVILY
ARMED
MESSENGER.

I MEAN, I
WISH I COULD
TAKE CREDIT FOR THIS--
THE *INGENUITY!* THE
VISION! BUT THAT'S ALL
ON HIM. I MERELY
FACILITATE.

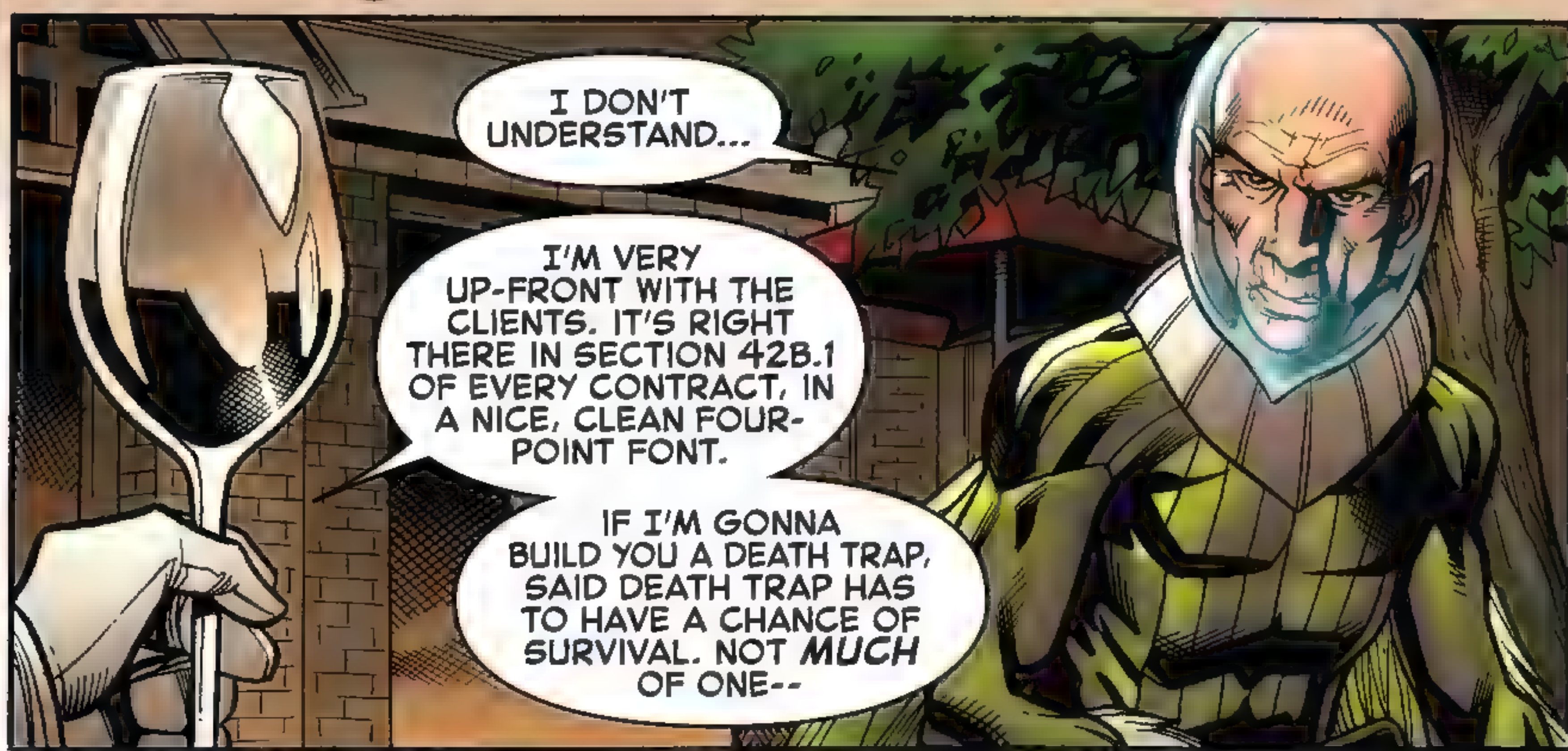


AND LET ME TELL YOU, VULCHIE--
HE'S GOT YOU PRETTY GOOD. THESE
ROBOT HUNTERS ARE BASICALLY
INDESTRUCTIBLE. THE FORCE
FIELD IS BASICALLY
IMPENETRABLE.

WHICH IS
MY *PROBLEM*
WITH ALL OF IT,
ACTUALLY.
YOU SEE--



--KRAVEN'S
NOT THE ONLY
WHO'S A SLAVE TO
THE BRAND.



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND...

I'M VERY
UP-FRONT WITH THE
CLIENTS. IT'S RIGHT
THERE IN SECTION 42B.1
OF EVERY CONTRACT, IN
A NICE, CLEAN FOUR-
POINT FONT.

IF I'M GONNA
BUILD YOU A DEATH TRAP,
SAID DEATH TRAP HAS
TO HAVE A CHANCE OF
SURVIVAL. NOT *MUCH*
OF ONE--



--BUT A
CHANCE.

KRAVEN'S
GOT YOU DEAD
TO RIGHTS. THIS
WHOLE THING IS
AIRTIGHT--

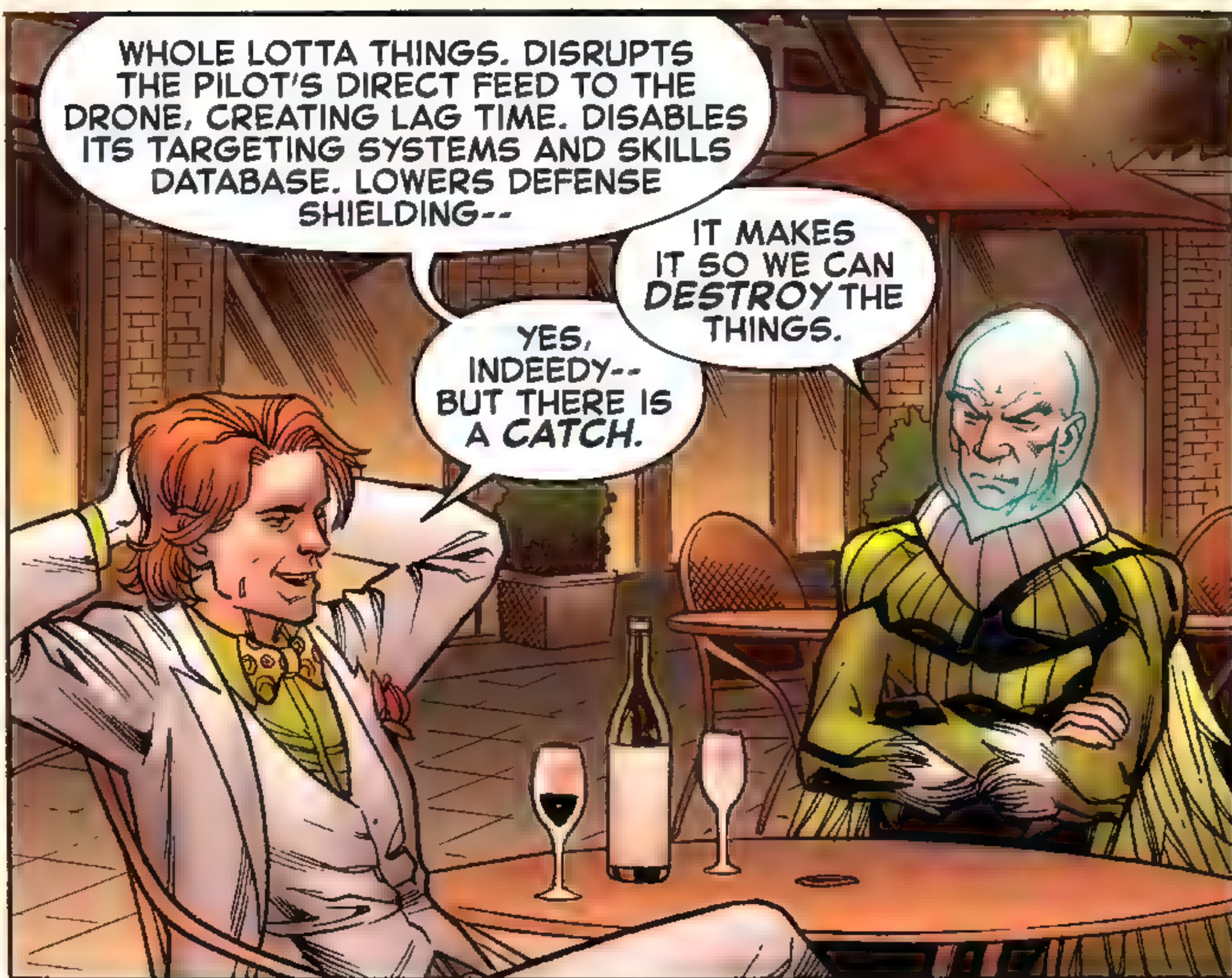
--SO I HAD TO
IMPROVISE.



WHAT IS THIS?

THAT, MY RAZOR-FEATHERED FRIEND, IS WHAT I CALL A **HUNTER KILLER**. IT'S THE CURE TO WHAT AILS YA...

WHAT DOES IT DO?



WHOLE LOTTA THINGS. DISRUPTS THE PILOT'S DIRECT FEED TO THE DRONE, CREATING LAG TIME. DISABLES ITS TARGETING SYSTEMS AND SKILLS DATABASE. LOWERS DEFENSE SHIELDING--

IT MAKES IT SO WE CAN **DESTROY** THE THINGS.

YES, INDEEDY-- BUT THERE IS A **CATCH**.



BAH! OF **COURSE** THERE IS--

YOUR PROBLEM RIGHT NOW IS, EVEN WHEN ONE OF YOU IS STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE DOWN A HUNTER, THEIR NUMBERS OVERWHELM YOU. I HAVE NO INTEREST IN GETTING RID OF THAT PROBLEM FOR YOU.

THAT'S THE "SLIM" IN MY SLIM CHANCE POLICY.



SO I PROGRAMMED LIMITS INTO THE DISRUPTION FIELD, MADE IT NARROW AT FIRST--SO THE RANGE COULD ONLY TAKE OUT ONE HUNTER AT BEST.

BUT--AND THIS IS THE **BEST** PART--THE MORE HUNTERS YOU KILL, THE BIGGER THE FIELD GETS--YOU KNOW, LIKE MARIO AND THE MUSHROOMS--

--WHICH MEANS, IN ORDER TO UNLOCK THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THIS THING YOU NEED--

A WAR OF **ATTRITION**.



YOU GOT IT. YOU NEED DEAD HUNTERS QUICK TO GET MORE DEAD HUNTERS--SO YOU'RE GONNA NEED TO THROW A LOT OF BODIES AT THE PROBLEM.

WHICH GOT ME WONDERING AFTER I BUILT IT...



WHO COULD I POSSIBLY GIVE THIS TO? WHO COULD BE CRAFTY AND CUNNING ENOUGH TO PERSUADE ALL THESE TRAPPED ANIMALS TO FOLLOW THEIR LEAD--

--WHILE ALSO BEING COLD-BLOODED ENOUGH TO LIVE WITH KNOWING THEY WERE SENDING SO MANY OF THOSE POOR SOULS TO THEIR CERTAIN DOOM?



AND THEN I CAUGHT FOOTAGE OF THIS.

THE MAN REPLIES, "I DON'T NEED TO BE FASTER THAN THE TIGER--

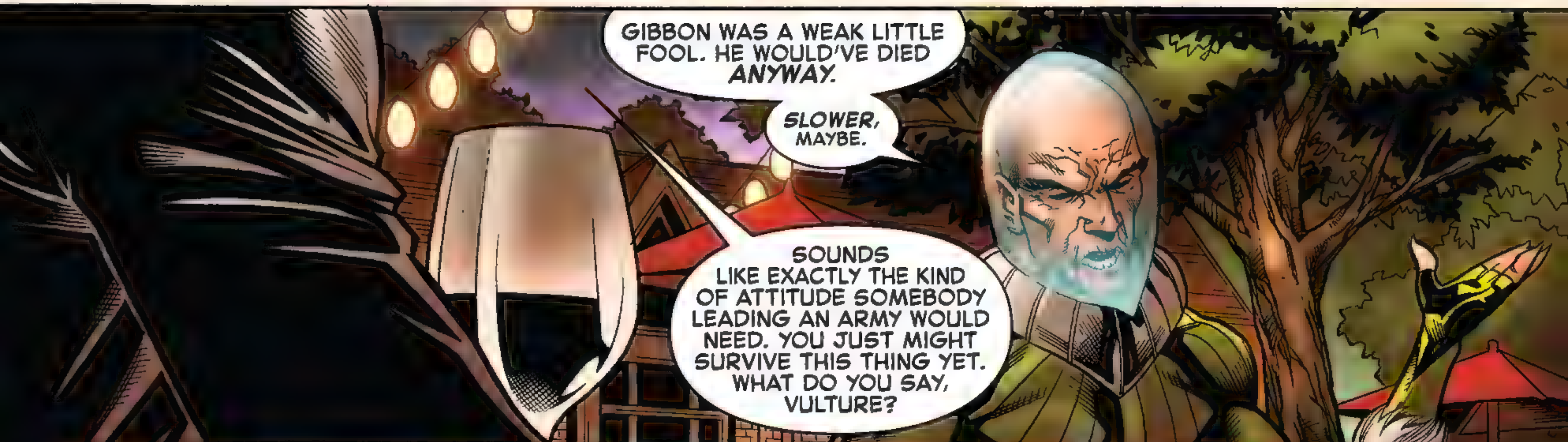
"--I JUST NEED TO BE FASTER THAN YOU."

HEY-- WAIT! MR. VULTURE--



AGGGHHH!

I DO BELIEVE YOU'RE MY MASS MURDERER IN A HAYSTACK, ADRIAN.



GIBBON WAS A WEAK LITTLE FOOL. HE WOULD'VE DIED ANYWAY.

SLOWER, MAYBE.

SOUNDS LIKE EXACTLY THE KIND OF ATTITUDE SOMEBODY LEADING AN ARMY WOULD NEED. YOU JUST MIGHT SURVIVE THIS THING YET. WHAT DO YOU SAY, VULTURE?



WANNA START A REVOLUTION FOR ME?

DIDN'T TAKE YOU LONG TO ADJUST.

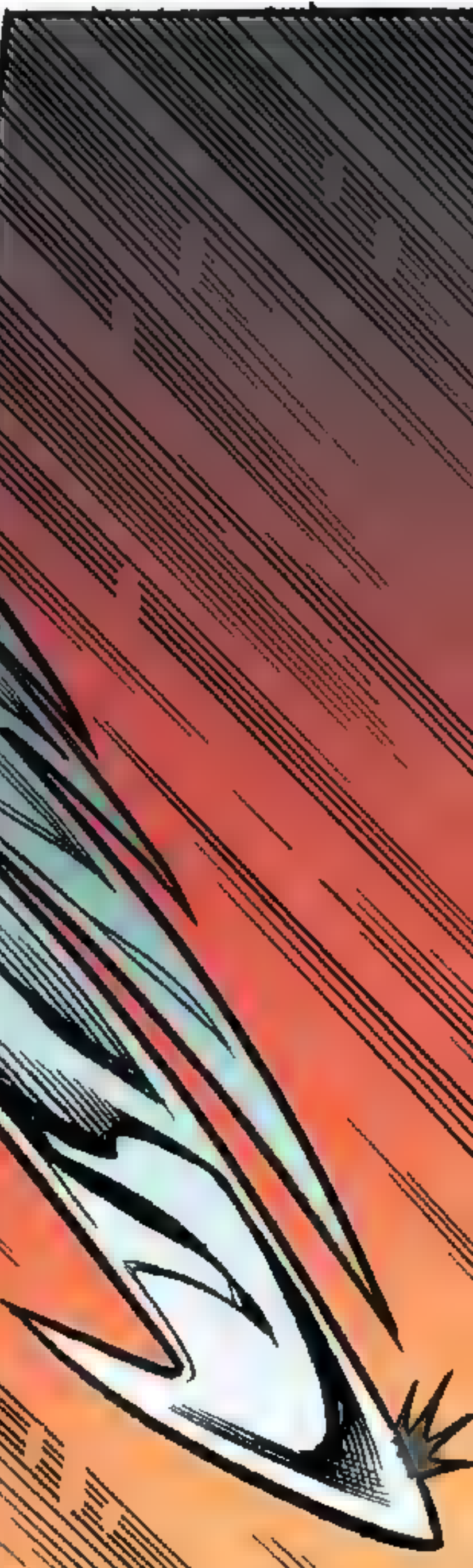
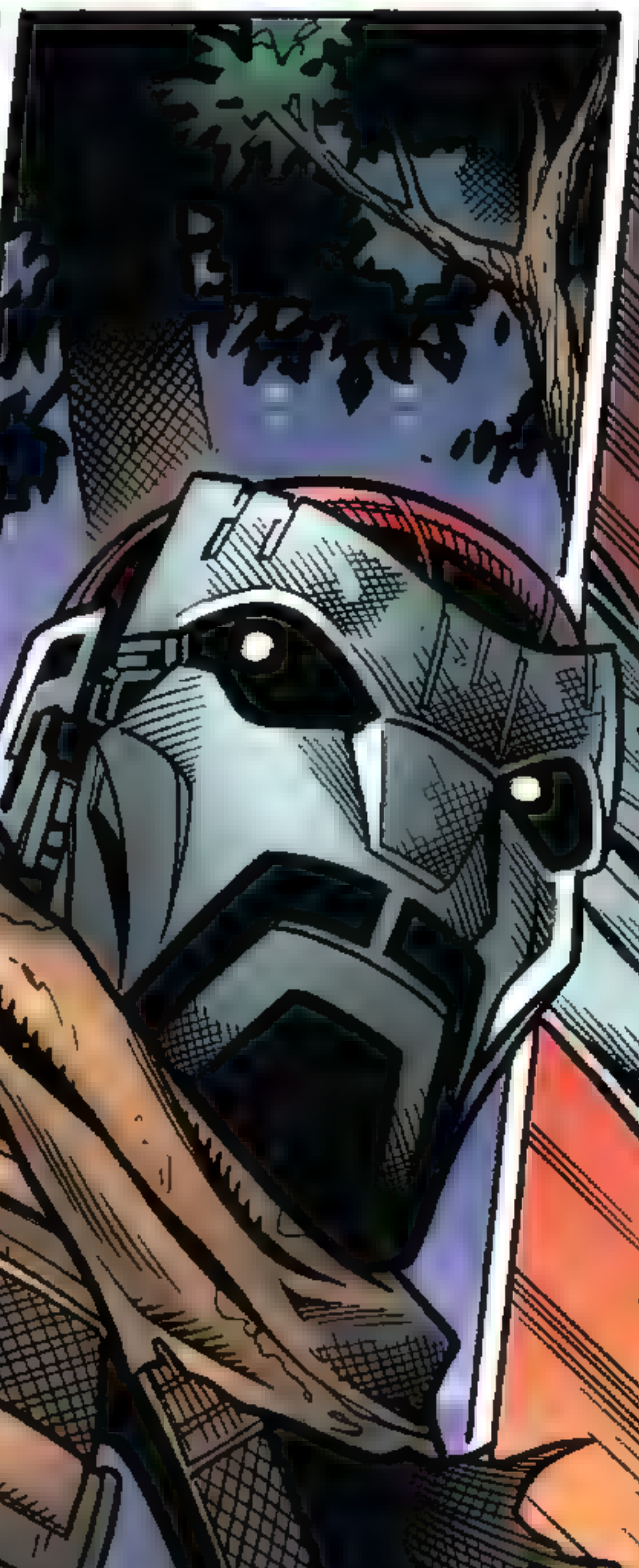
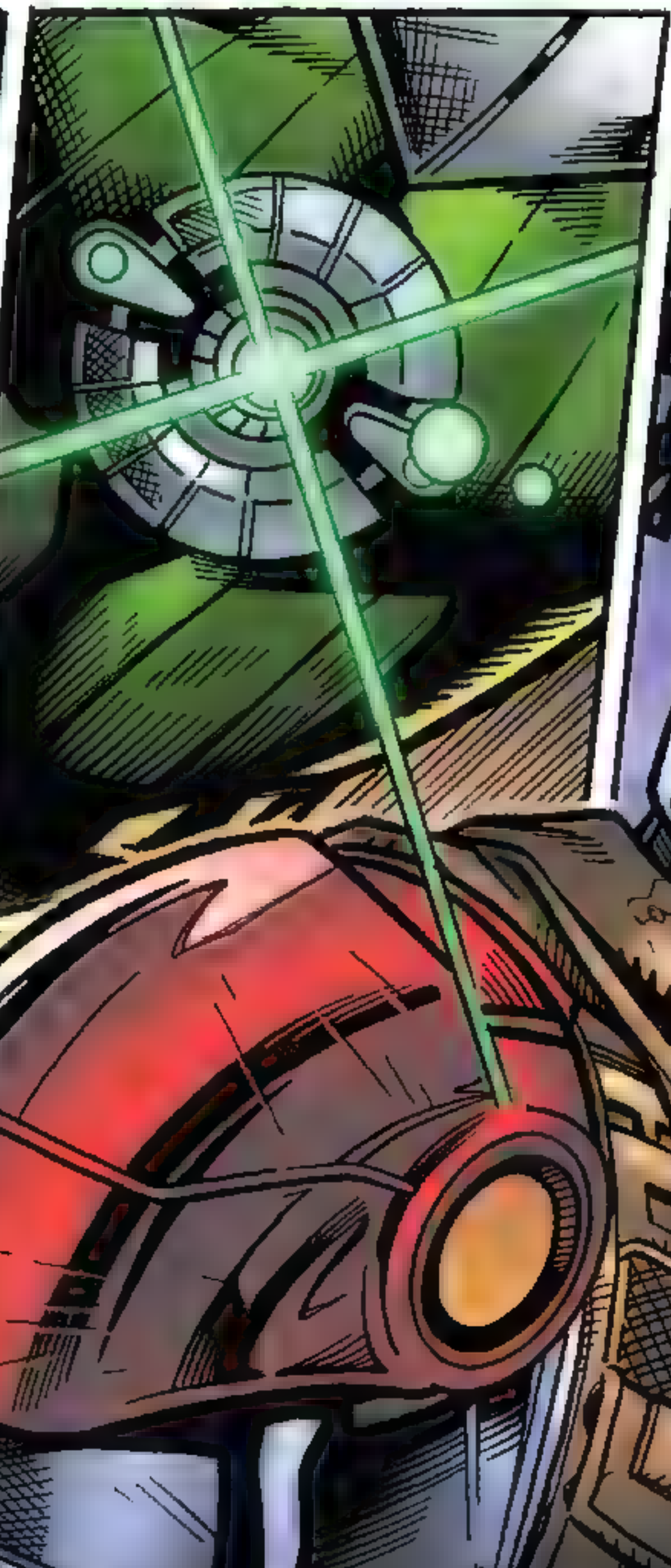
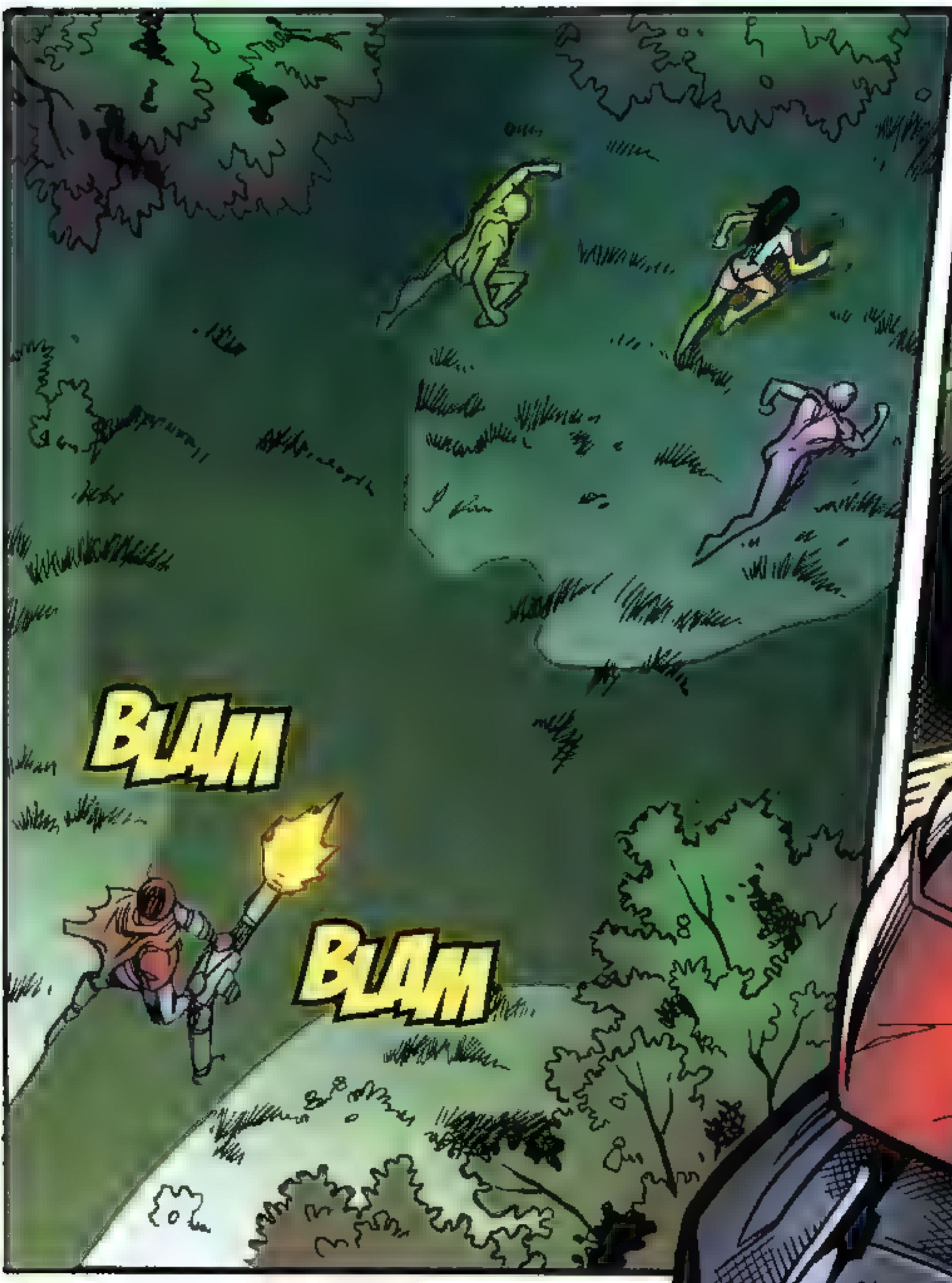
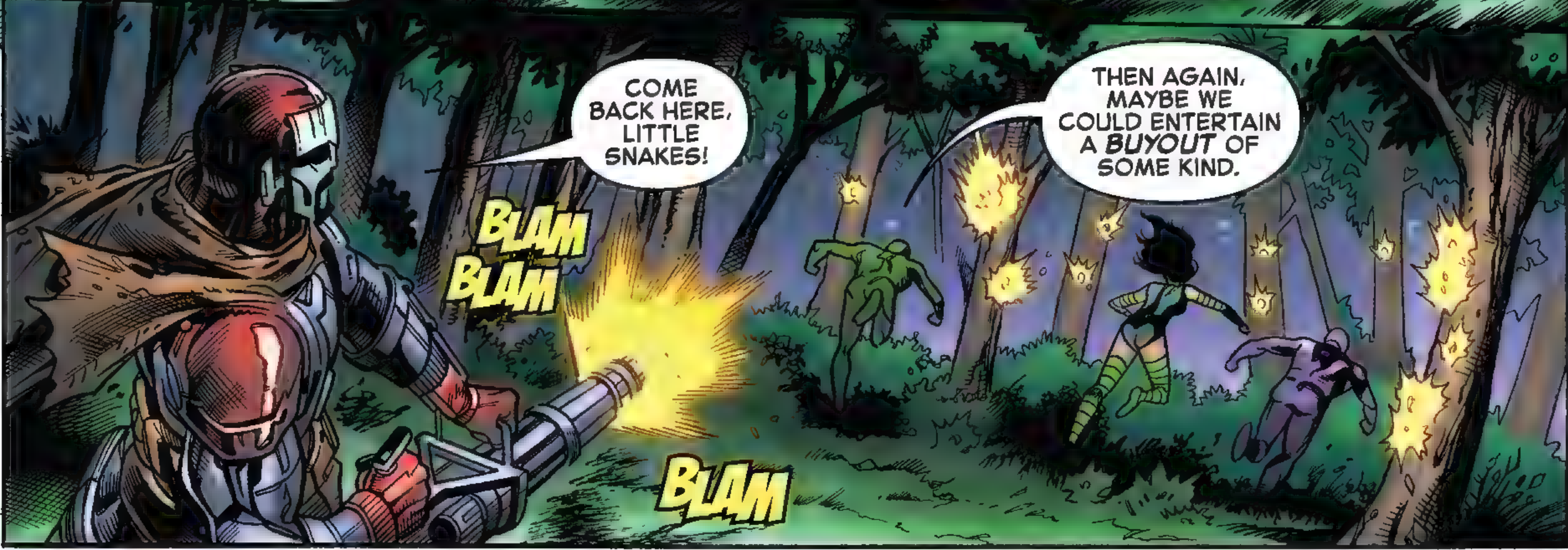
VIPER, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU THIS FOR MONTHS, BUT--I'M STARTING TO THINK YOU'RE NOT THE GUY TO LEAD THE SERPENT SOCIETY.

SECONDED! IT'S YOUR FAULT WE'RE EVEN STUCK IN HERE!

BLAM

BLAM
BLAM

YOU CAN'T DO THAT--YOU DON'T HAVE A QUORUM!





HELLO, SERPENTS. FORGIVE THE INTRUSION, BUT I COULDN'T HELP BUT OVERHEAR YOUR CONVERSATION.

IF IT'S A LEADER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...

THE REST CAME NATURALLY, DIDN'T IT?

LIKE YOU
WERE **BORN**
FOR THIS.

WHEN I
FOUND YOU,
WHERE WERE
YOU?!

"SCATTERED
AND AFRAID.

"RUNNING
FOR YOUR
LIVES."

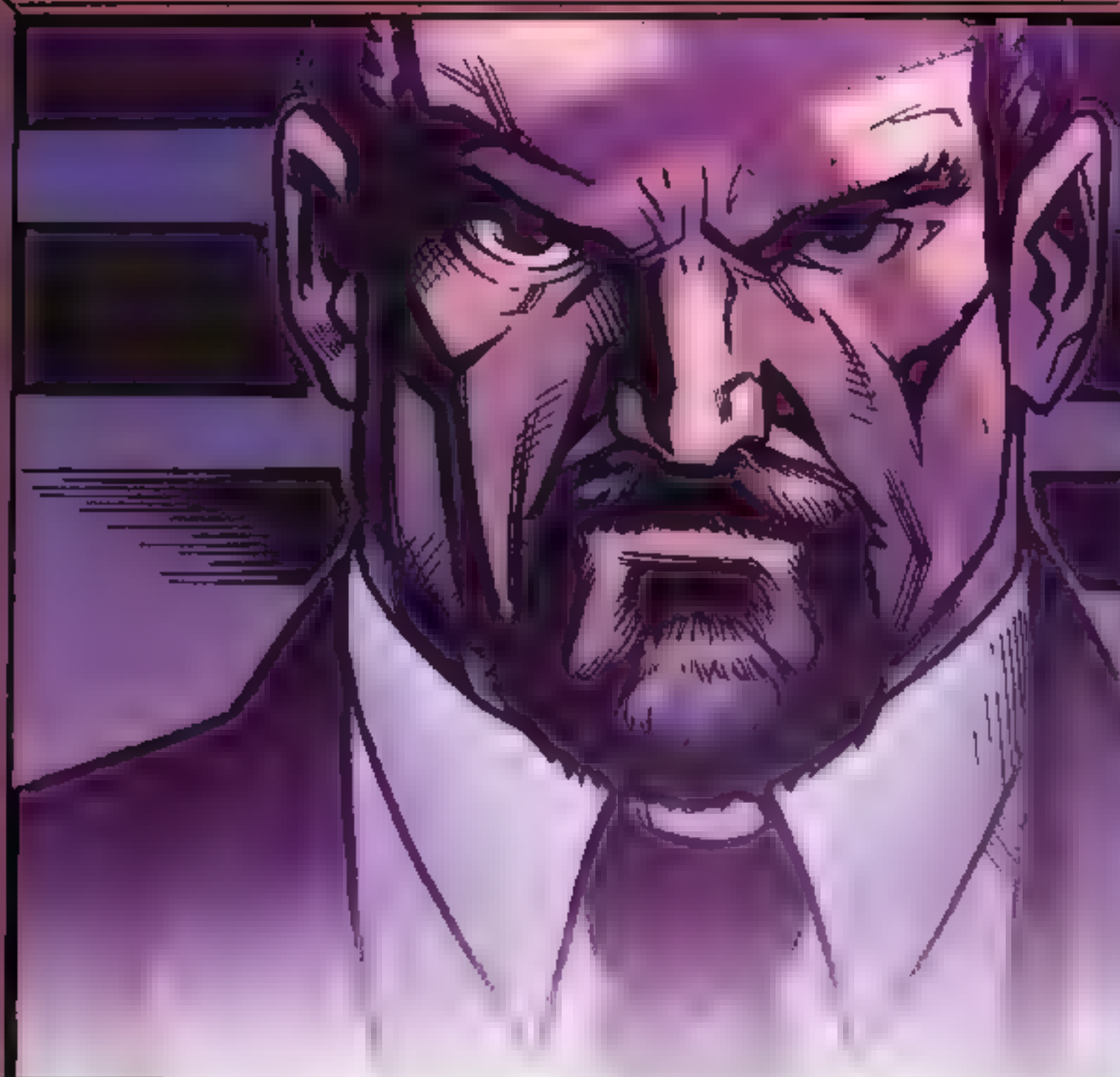
NOW
LOOK AT YOU!
UNITED.
STRONG.

"AN ARMY READY
TO TAKE THE
FIGHT TO THOSE
WHO WOULD
DESTROY YOU."

IT WILL
NOT BE EASY.
THE COST WILL
BE GREAT.

BUT
TOGETHER,
MY DEAR FRIENDS,
WE WILL
TRIUMPH--

"--AND THEN WE
WILL TAKE OUR
REVENGE ON THE
MAN WHO PUT
US HERE!"



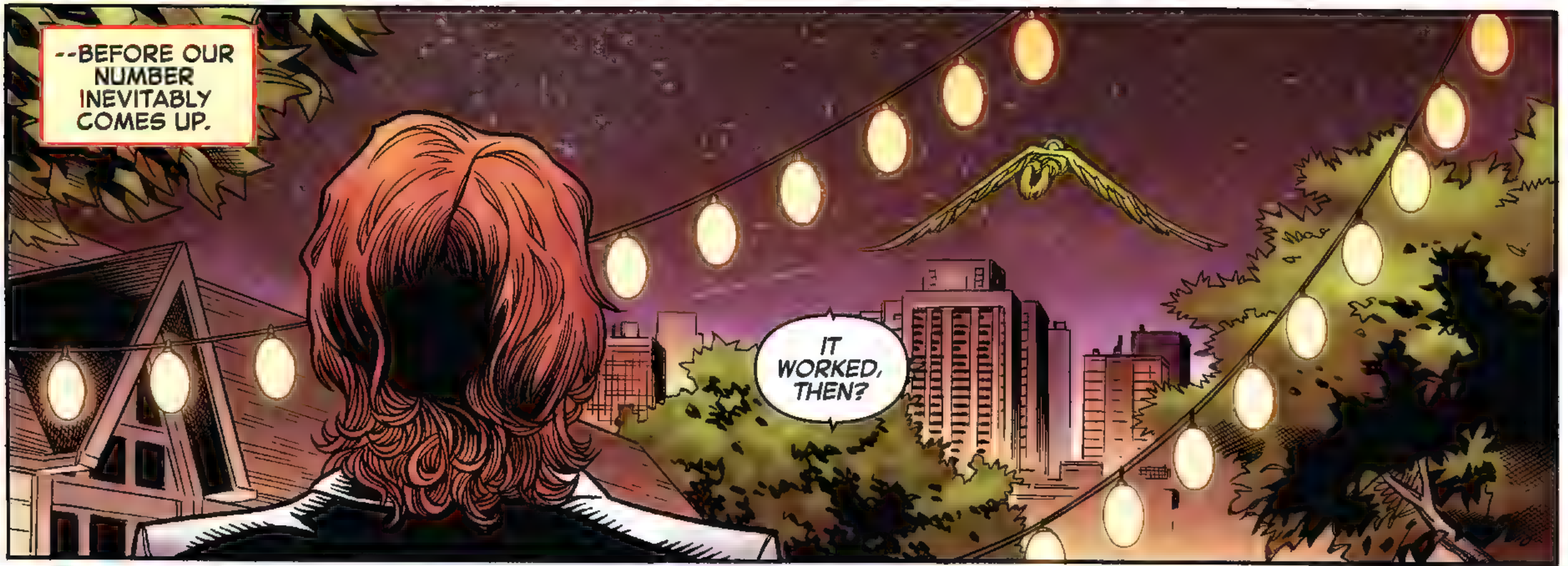
THIS IS MY PROMISE TO
YOU, MY DEVOTED
SOLDIERS--WE WILL NOT
STOP, WE WILL NOT
REST--

--UNTIL WE
FEAST ON THE
FLESH OF THE
HUNTER!

RRRDDDDDDHHHHH!

GREAT INSTINCTS,
ADRIAN. THIS IS
HOW YOU SURVIVE
IN THE WILD.

ADAPTATION.
EVOLUTION.
TROUBLE IS, IN THE
END IT ONLY GETS
US SO FAR--



--BEFORE OUR
NUMBER
INEVITABLY
COMES UP.

IT
WORKED,
THEN?



JUST LIKE
YOU SAID. GOTTA
HAND IT TO YOU THERE,
KRAVEN--YOU SURE DO
KNOW YOUR WILDLIFE
IN TIGHTS.

THE
VULTURE IS A
PREDICTABLE
ANIMAL.

HE IS CALLED CRAFTY
AND CUNNING, BUT IN
TRUTH, HIS WEAKNESS
IS ON DISPLAY.

HE CRAVES
DEATH. HE IS
DRAWN TO IT LIKE
THE MOTH TO
A FLAME.

WELL, AS
LONG AS YOU
DON'T MIND THE
MIXED METAPHOR,
I DON'T.

EITHER WAY,
HE'LL GET THE
JOB DONE AND WALK
THE WHOLE MESS OF
THEM RIGHT INTO
THE TRAP.

IF
DEATH'S
WHAT HE'S
AFTER--

"--HE'LL HAVE
PLENTY."



mother

vermin is afraid.

vermin is in pain. but worst of all--

--vermin is alone.

trapped here. in a cage again.

they poke and prod and make vermin feel bad.

PREP ME FIFTEEN CCs OF THE MOUNTAIN DEW-COLORED STUFF. THEN FIND A BIGGER CAGE-- WE'RE GONNA NEED IT.

YES, SIR.

VERMIN DOESN'T WANT TO BE ALONE...

VERMIN WANTS... MOTHER.

AWW, LOOK AT THE GLOOMY LITTLE FELLA... YOU WANT SOME CANDY? WANT UNCLE ARCADE TO GIVE YOU A NICE INJECTION OF BIOENGINEERED CANDY?

vermin just want to go home.

vermin just want to...



...EAT.

AGGGHHH!



HE BIT ME!

SONOVA--
HE BIT ME!



AYYEEE!



PLEAAASSEE--
DON'T HURT
VERMIN ANYMORE!
HE BE NICE! BE
FRIEND!

LIKE SKULL-
FACE AND
HIS FRIEND--WE
HELP EACH
OTHER!



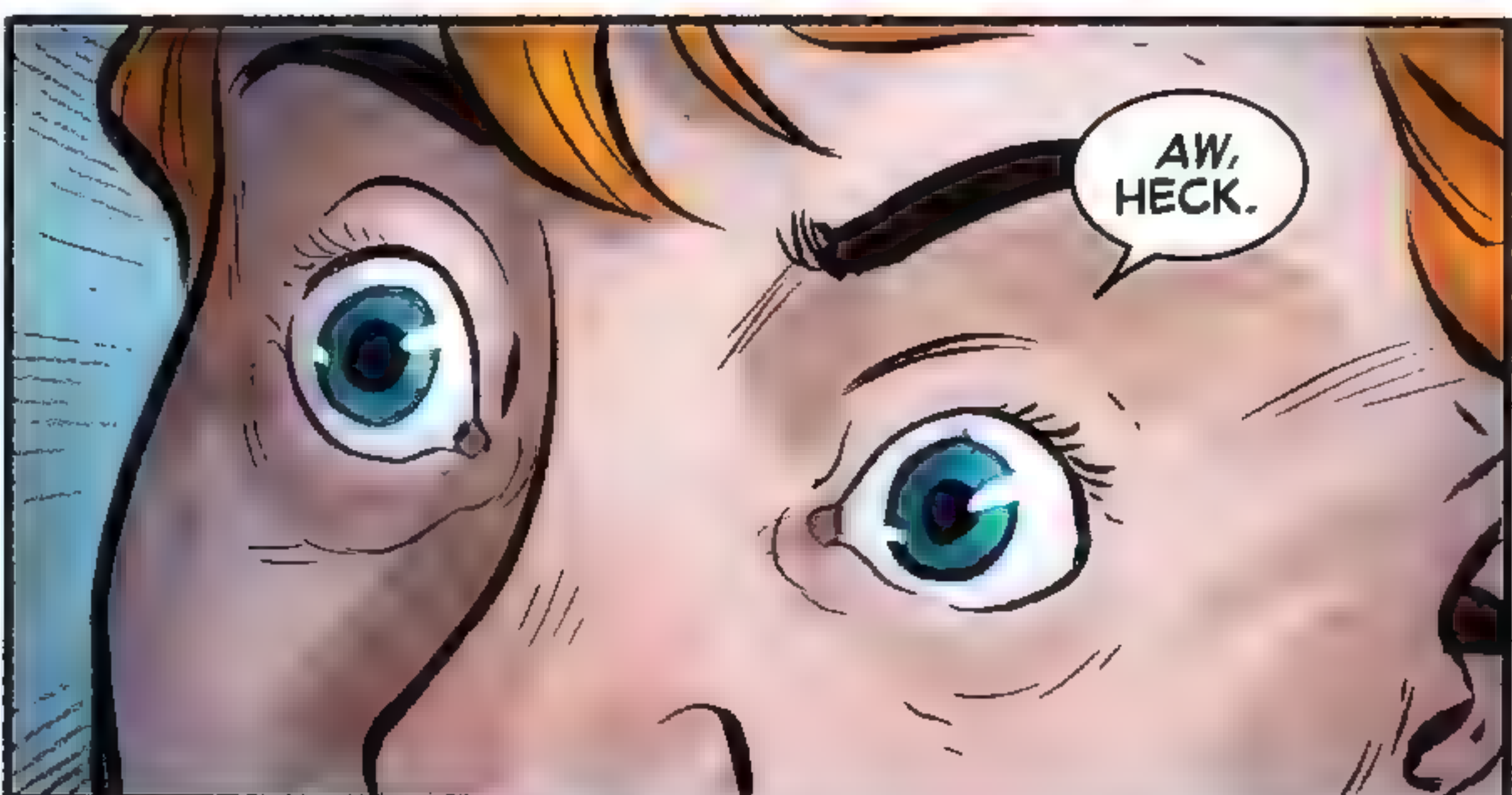
HH--HATE TO
BREAK IT YOU,
FURBALL, BUT SKULL-
FACE AND THE BLACK
ANT AREN'T EXACTLY
SYMPATICO RIGHT
NOW...

NO
ANT--



--SSSSLITHER
MAN.

SLITHER
MAN? NO,
THAT'S--



AW,
HECK.



SOUND THE ALARM!
SOUND THE ALARM!



HE SOLD US OUT! TASKMASTER WAS WORKING WITH LIZARD THE WHOLE TIME! FIND HIM! HURRY UP, YOU IDIOTS! FIND HIM!

heh-heh. they think they so smart. but vermin knows things...



vermin knows
sssssecretssss.



?SIGH? WELL, THAT IS GOING TO COMPLICATE THINGS. BUT I SUPPOSE IT MEANS I DO OWE YOU ONE, VERMY.

YOU... LET VERMIN FREE?

HA, NO--



BUT I AM GONNA HELP YOU OUT WITH YOUR PROBLEM. YOU SAY YOU DON'T WANNA BE ALONE ANYMORE? YOU WANT A FRIEND?

WELL, I GOT THE CURE FOR WHAT AILS YA. NOT GONNA LIE, THOUGH--

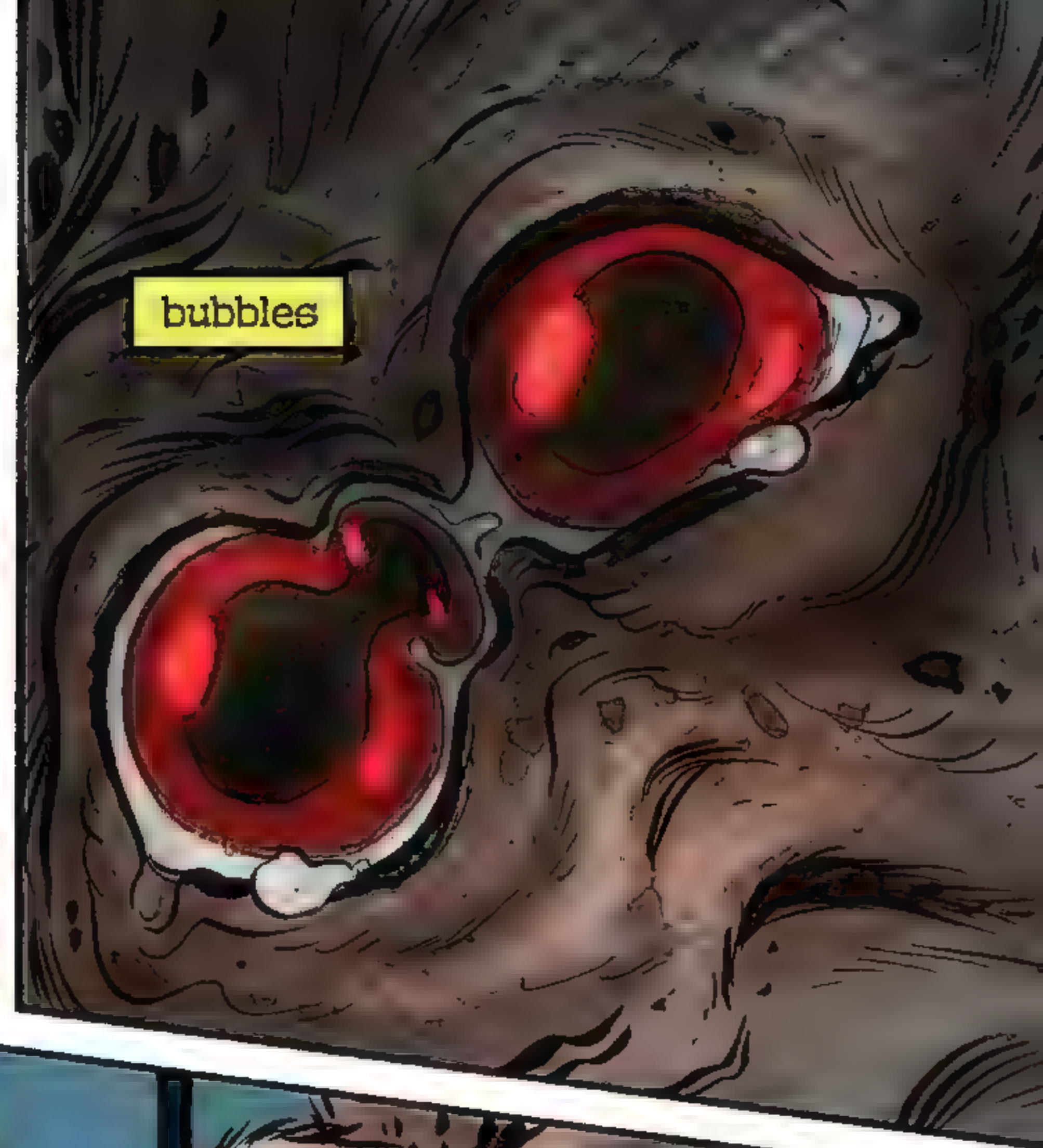


--IT MIGHT STING A LITTLE.

AAAAAYEEEE!



burns



bubbles



mother



mother
make it
stop



mother
hurtsssss

mother?

SEE?
THERE YA
GO. TOLD
YOU IT'D BE
WORTH IT.

VERMIN
AIN'T ALONE
ANYMORE!

21



HUNTED PART 5





I remember
when I learned
it myself.

I remember all
the words as
they ran through
my mind.

"There must
be a test."

"A final line to
cross. A final
madness
embraced."

But this is not
my test, Spider.
No, this time--

--it is
yours.

"Pain. And
blood. And
sorrow."

"Tonight."

TONIGHT.

"YES,
YES--"

--TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT! AFTER THIS OPERATION, BUSINESS IS GONNA BOOM. I MEAN, LOOK AT ALL THOSE VERMIN-- GRADE-A GENETIC ENGINEERING, COMPLETELY ON THE FLY! THAT'S HOW YOU IMPROVISE!

BUT LET'S NOT FORGET THE A-PLOT. MONITOR THREE--

"--SHOW ME SOME CHAOS!"

HURRY UP, MAN, SHE'S FAST!

NOT AS FAST AS US!

OH HEAVENS, NO. WHATEVER SHALL I DO, BESIDES--

OOPSY-DAISY!

GOT YOU, WASCALLY WABBIT!

GONNA CARVE YOU UP--

NO, NO, GENTLEMEN, YOU SEEM TO MISUNDERSTAND-- I'M MERELY THE RABBIT IN THE HAT, AS IT WERE. AND LIKE ANY GOOD MAGIC TRICK--

--YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN LOOKING ELSEWHERE.



LOVELY,
LOVELY.

I'D HAVE
TO AGREE,
VULTURE.



OUR FORCES
ARE SEEING SOME
REAL PROGRESS IN
TAKING DOWN THESE
HUNTERS.

BUT I'VE
BEEN TRACKING
THE STRIKES AND
WE'RE TAKING A LOT OF
CASUALTIES ON OUR OWN
SIDE--I'M TALKING
SERIOUS COLLATERAL
DAMAGE.

HM, IS
THAT RIGHT?
WHAT A
PITY.



BUT SACRIFICES
MUST BE
MADE...

He is willing to do
what must be done.

The Vulture. He
understands.

Sometimes the herd
must be thinned.

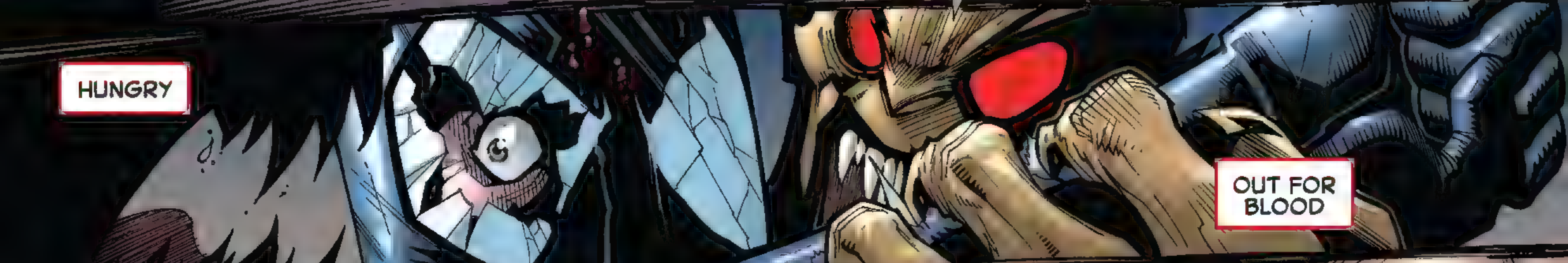
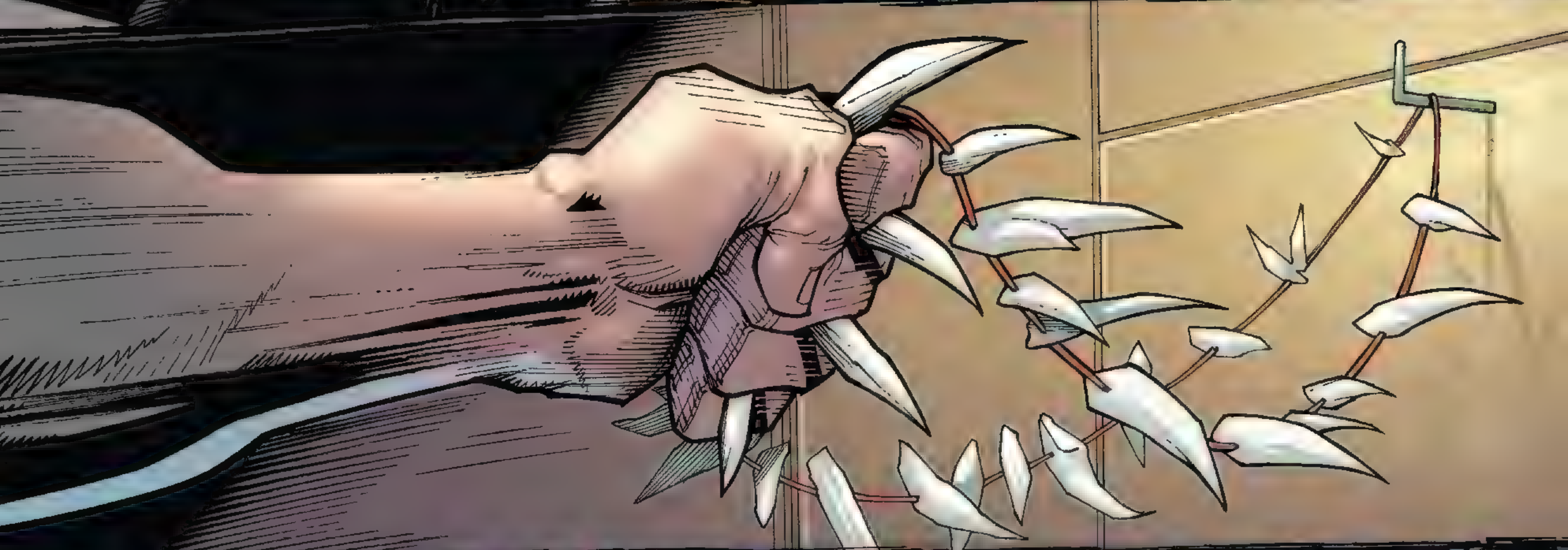


Sometimes
death is a
kindness.



SO MANY
OF THEM.

THEY WON'T
STOP COMING.



HUNGRY

OUT FOR
BLOOD



THEY'RE NOT
GOING TO
LET ME GO

MARY JANE--
THEY'RE NOT
GOING TO
LET ME GO



MJ!

I LOVE
YOU!





I'M GONNA
DIE HERE.

No.

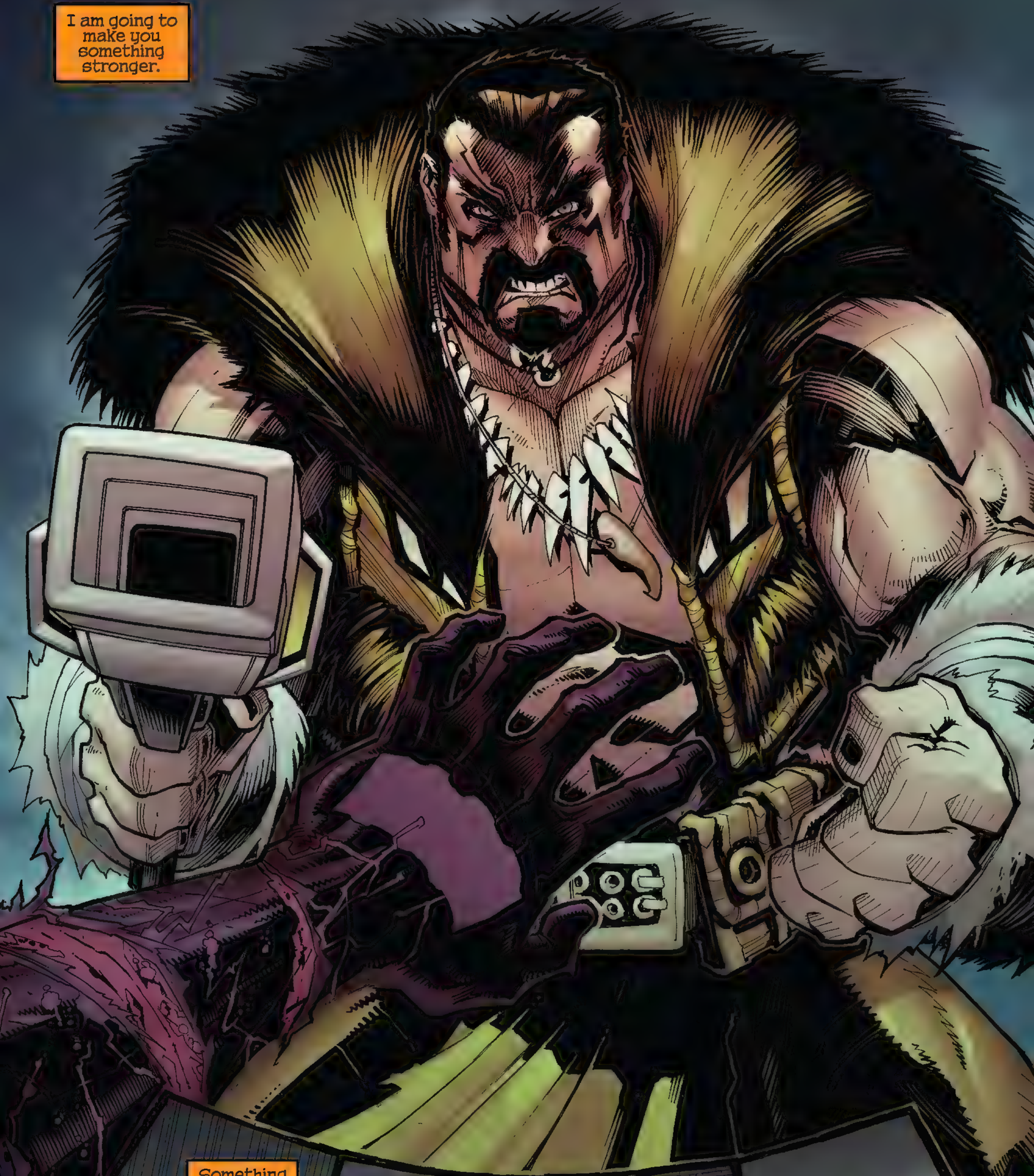
AWEEEEEEEEEE

Not yet,
Spider.

This man--this weakling
you have chosen as
your avatar--he may
have failed you.

But I
will not.

I am going to
make you
something
stronger.



Something
worthy of
fear.

KRAVEN...
NO...



WARM.

WHITE.

PEACEFUL.

LET
ME STAY
HERE.

Rise.



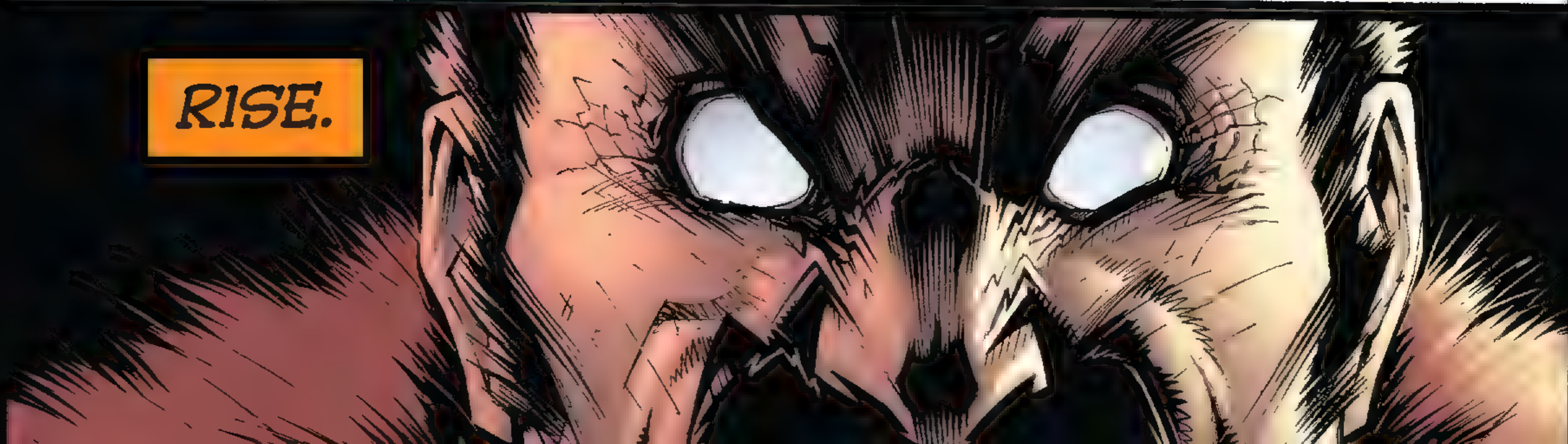
PLEASE. I'M
SO TIRED.

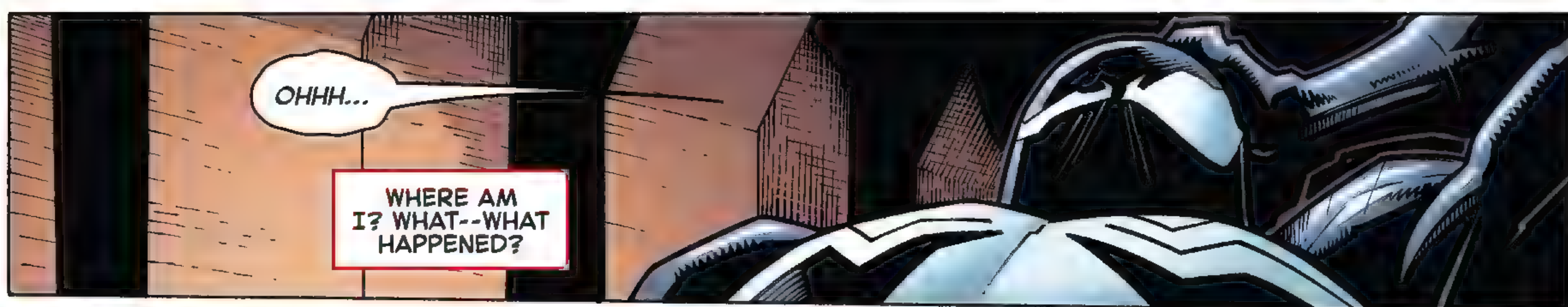
RISE.



I'VE BEEN
HERE
BEFORE.

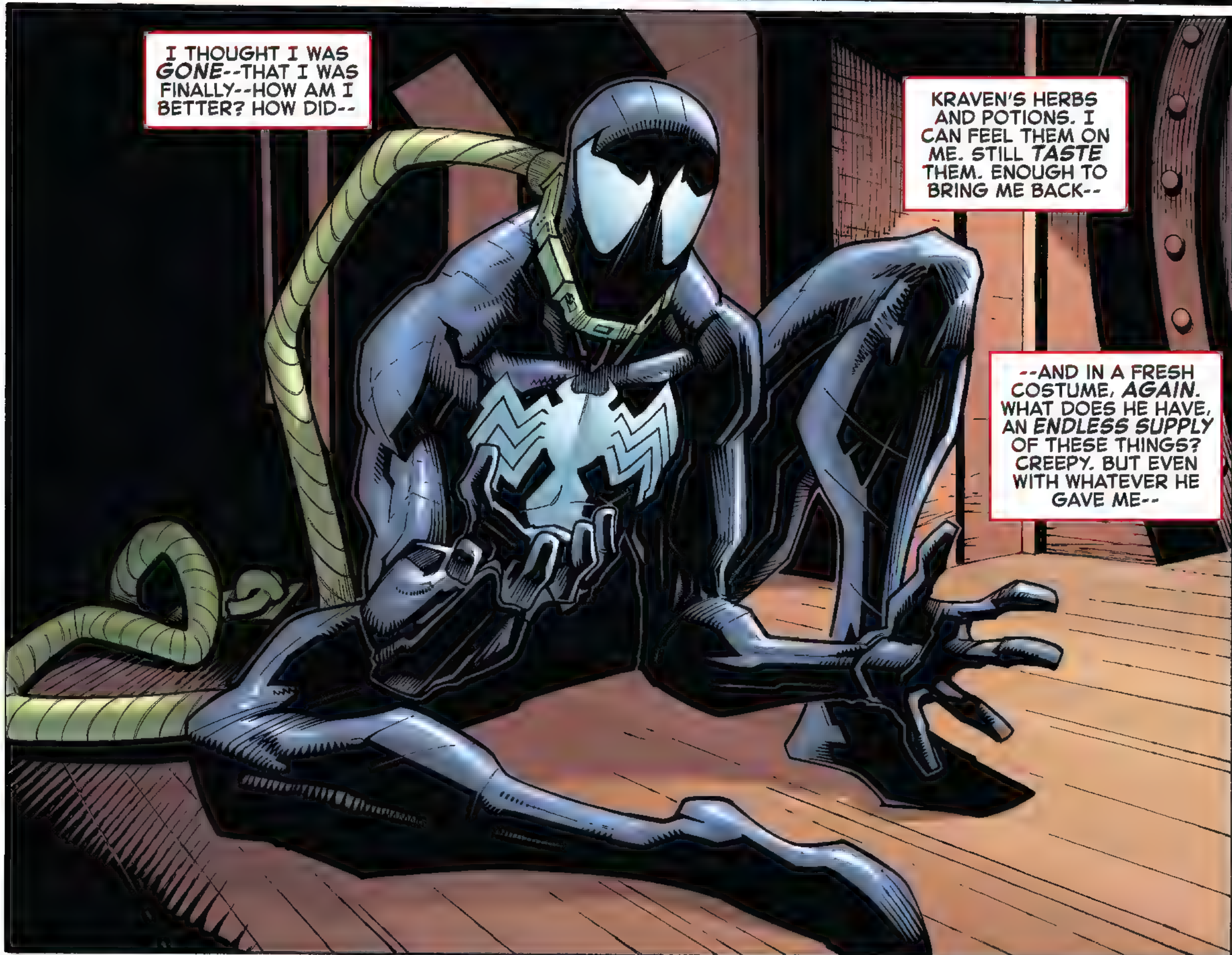
RISE.





OHHH...

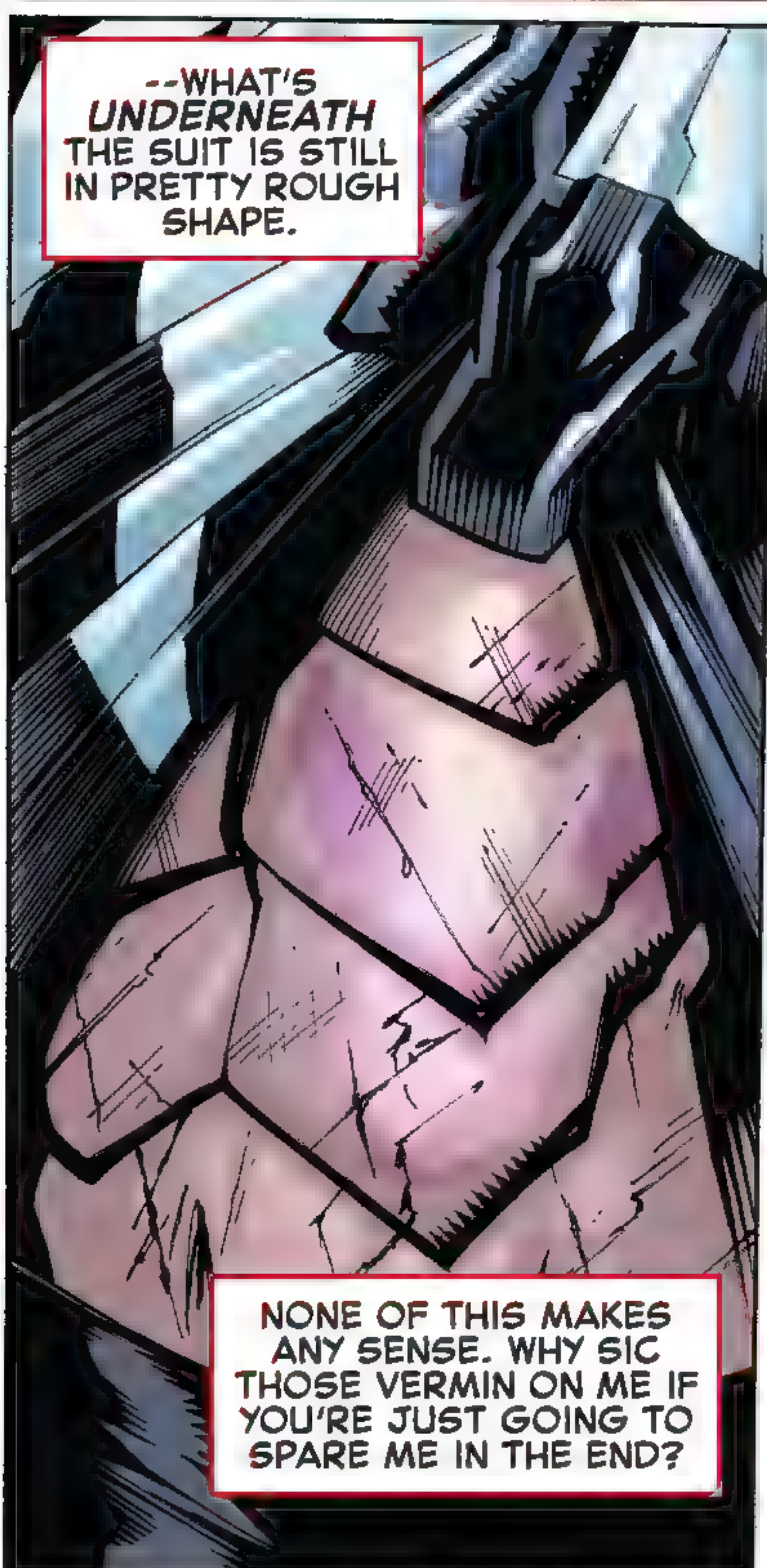
WHERE AM I? WHAT--WHAT HAPPENED?



I THOUGHT I WAS **GONE**--THAT I WAS FINALLY--HOW AM I BETTER? HOW DID--

KRAVEN'S HERBS AND POTIONS. I CAN FEEL THEM ON ME. STILL **TASTE** THEM. ENOUGH TO BRING ME BACK--

--AND IN A FRESH COSTUME, AGAIN. WHAT DOES HE HAVE, AN **ENDLESS SUPPLY** OF THESE THINGS? CREEPY. BUT EVEN WITH WHATEVER HE GAVE ME--



--WHAT'S **UNDERNEATH** THE SUIT IS STILL IN PRETTY ROUGH SHAPE.

NONE OF THIS MAKES ANY SENSE. WHY SIC THOSE VERMIN ON ME IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO SPARE ME IN THE END?



AND WHY GO THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE OF SAVING MY LIFE JUST TO THROW ME IN SOME CELL ALL BY MY--

I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.



THAT **VOICE**-- I KNOW THAT VOICE!

AFTER ALL, HE'LL WANT TO TEACH YOU A LESSON TOO.

CURT
CONNORS?!

DOC--I
DIDN'T KNOW
YOU WERE HERE.
UH, PETE CALLED ME...
SAID YOU WERE
LOOKING FOR
YOUR SON.

YEAH. I
CAME LOOKING.
BUT *THIS* IS ALL
I FOUND.

WHAT
IS THIS
PLACE?

OUR
PUNISHMENT.
BUT I DOUBT WE'LL
BE HERE MUCH
LONGER.

YOU
GOT THAT
RIGHT. COME
ON, GIVE ME
A HAND--

--LET'S GET
THIS THING
OFF ME.

I ALREADY TRIED WHILE YOU
WERE UNCONSCIOUS. IT'S
RIGGED. TAMPERING WITH IT
SETS OFF AN EXPLOSIVE
THAT WOULD KILL YOU.

WHICH
MEANS MY
INHIBITOR CHIP
WON'T LET ME COME
NEAR IT. INSTEAD
ALL I GET TO DO
IS SIT HERE--

--AND
WATCH.

...WATCH?

A LIVE
FEED OF THE
PARK. HE WANTS
US TO SEE IT
HAPPEN.

YEAH,
UNFF--SOUNDS
LIKE OUR GUY.
"THAT'S SO
KRAVEN!"

HEY,
HOLD ON.
IS THAT--

"--BLACK CAT?"

YOU KNOW WHAT'S WORSE THAN BEING IN EXCRUCIATING PAIN?

HAVING TO HIDE SAID PAIN FROM YOUR NEWLY ADOPTED RUNAWAY LIZARD KID FOR FEAR OF FREAKING HIM OUT TOO MUCH.

LOOKING PRETTY TIRED THERE, LITTLE GUY--

OR RATHER, I'M TIRED. WOULD NEED A LOT OF HOURS TO SLEEP OFF THE BLAST WOUND I GOT FROM THAT HUNTER.

HOW ABOUT WE TAKE A LITTLE BREATHER OVER THERE?

DO WE HAVE TO?

MY DAD WILL BE HERE.

SIGH I KNOW, BILLY. I KNOW.

BECAUSE YOU KEEP SAYING IT. OVER AND OVER.

OKAY, FELICIA, GO EASY. THE KID'S IN SHOCK. YOU HAD TO GIVE HIM THE TOUGH LOVE TO GET HIM OUT OF THE CAGE--

--NOW MAYBE TRY A GENTLER APPROACH.

LOOK, KIDDO-- IF HE'S HERE, I'M SURE HE'S OKAY. AND HE'S LOOKING FOR YOU, SO HOPEFULLY--

NO, YOU DON'T GET IT-- I KNOW HE'S HERE...

I DON'T WANT HIM TO FIND US.

"THEY SAY BURYING YOUR CHILD IS THE WORST THING ANYONE CAN EXPERIENCE."

BUT BURYING YOUR OWN CHILD WHEN YOU KNOW IT'S YOUR FAULT THEY'RE GONE?

THAT WAS MORE THAN I COULD BEAR. PAIN BEYOND IMAGINATION.

AND SO WHEN BILLY CAME BACK TO ME, I WAS JUST SO GRATEFUL--

--I TOLD MYSELF NOT TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS. TO NOT MUDDLE THINGS UP, LIKE I ALWAYS DO.

I HAD BEEN GIVEN A GREAT GIFT. WHY COULDN'T I LET IT GO? JUST HOLD MY SON IN MY ARMS AGAIN WITH NO RESERVATIONS.

I TRIED. I REALLY DID TRY--

"--BUT I HAD TO BE SURE."

I'M NOT THE REAL ME. I'M NOT SSSUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT, BUT MY DAD--

--HE MADE ME SSSSEE THISSS DOCTOR. THEY DIDN'T THINK I COULD HEAR, BUT...

THE TESTS ARE MORE THAN CLEAR--THAT *IS* HIS SOUL. THE BODY MAY BE A CLONE, BUT BILLY'S *TRUE SPIRIT* RESIDES WITHIN HIM.

BUT STRANGE-- HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE? AND IF IT IS--DOES THAT MEAN--DOES THAT MEAN HE REMEMBERS WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

DOES HE REMEMBER HOW HE DIED?

"I DIDN'T UNDERSSSTAND WHAT THEY MEANT AT FIRSSST. BUT I JUSSST KEPT THINKING ABOUT IT."

THINKING REAL HARD. ALL THE TIME. EVEN WHEN I WAS ASSSLEEP. THAT'S WHEN I SSSAW IT.

I SSSAW--



HE KNOWS.

HE KNOWS WHAT I DID. AT LEAST ON *SOME* LEVEL. THAT'S WHY HE'S ALWAYS SO *ANGRY* WITH ME--SO *AFRAID* OF ME.

IT'S A FUNNY THING WHEN YOU HAVE A CHILD. YOU TRY TO HIDE IT, TRY TO MAKE YOURSELF INTO SOMETHING IN THEIR EYES. SOMETHING THEY CAN *BELIEVE* IN.

BUT ONE DAY THEY LOOK AT YOU, AND PLAIN AS DAY, THEY SEE THE TRUTH OF WHO YOU ARE. AND THIS IS WHO I REALLY AM--

--A MAN WHO COULDN'T PROTECT HIS OWN SON FROM A MONSTER.

A MONSTER I BROUGHT INTO HIS WORLD. A MONSTER *INSIDE* ME.

WE TELL OURSELVES WE CAN CHANGE. WE CAN MAKE THINGS RIGHT, IF WE CAN JUST GET ANOTHER CHANCE. BUT IT'S USUALLY A LIE. I SEE THAT NOW.

BECAUSE NOW I'M FAILING HIM ALL OVER AGAIN...



IT'S JUST A *DIFFERENT* MONSTER.

THE COST OF OUR MISTAKES.

WAIT--WHAT'S HAPPENING?

OH GOD... NO...

I TOLD YOU, SPIDER-MAN. THAT'S WHY THEY PUT US HERE--

"--SO WE
COULD WATCH
THEM DIE."

THIS POOR KID. HIS
OWN FATHER--HIS
OWN--IT DOESN'T
MATTER--

--I HAVE
TO HELP
HIM.

BILLY,
LISTEN TO ME,
OKAY?

WE'RE GOING TO GET OUT
OF HERE. BUT WHETHER IT'S IN
HERE OR OUT THERE--OR
ANYWHERE IN BETWEEN--

--I WON'T
EVER LET
ANYONE HURT
YOU AGAIN.

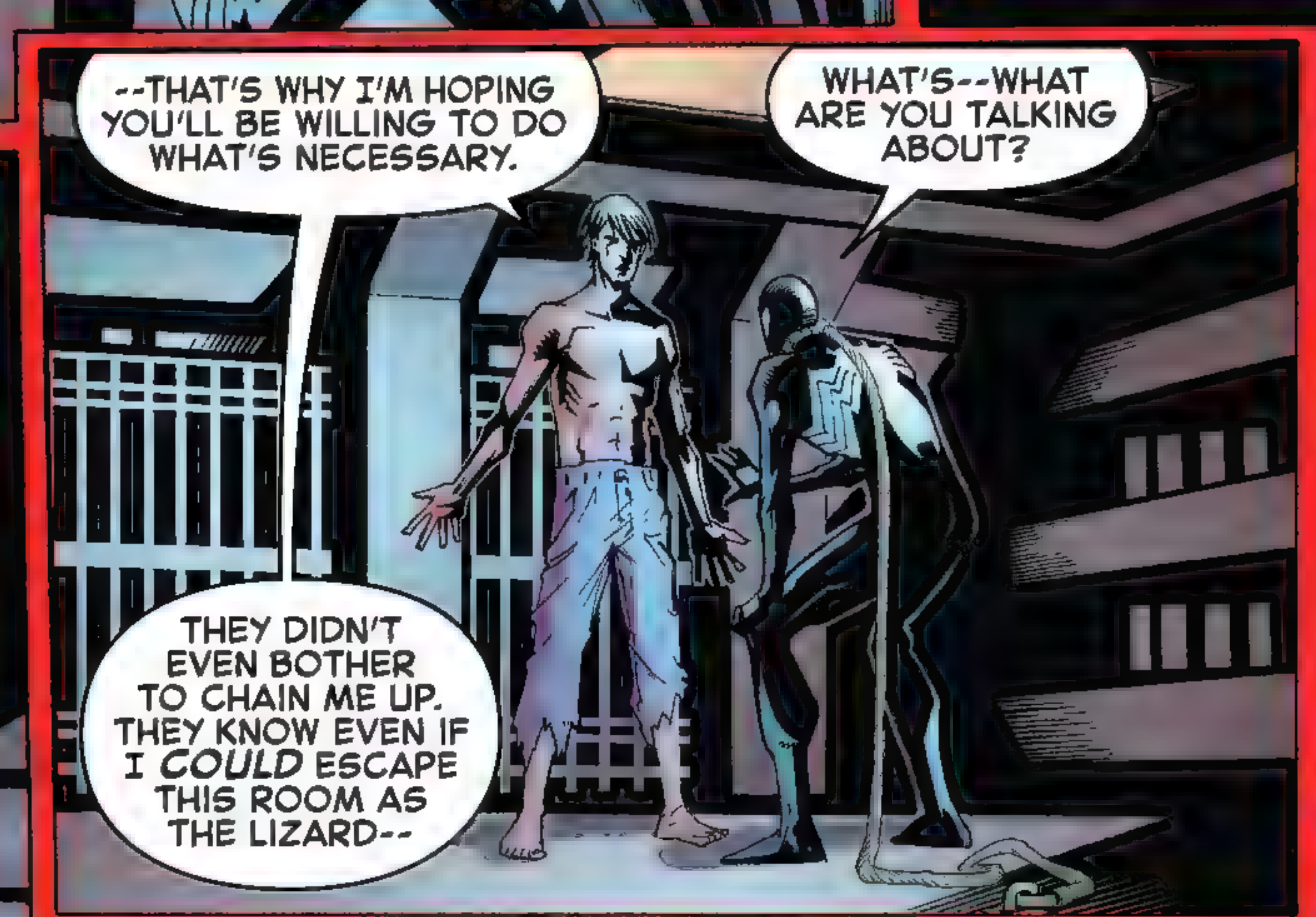
RECKLESS,
CAT. THE LAST
THING THE BOY
NEEDS--

--IS YOU
MAKING
PROMISES
YOU CAN'T
KEEP.



GNNFF! DOC--
FELICIA'S HURT.
THERE'S NO WAY
THEY STAND A CHANCE
AGAINST THAT GUY.
WE GOTTA DO
SOMETHING--

YES, WE
DO--



--THAT'S WHY I'M HOPING
YOU'LL BE WILLING TO DO
WHAT'S NECESSARY.

WHAT'S--WHAT
ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

THEY DIDN'T
EVEN BOTHER
TO CHAIN ME UP.
THEY KNOW EVEN IF
I **COULD** ESCAPE
THIS ROOM AS
THE LIZARD--



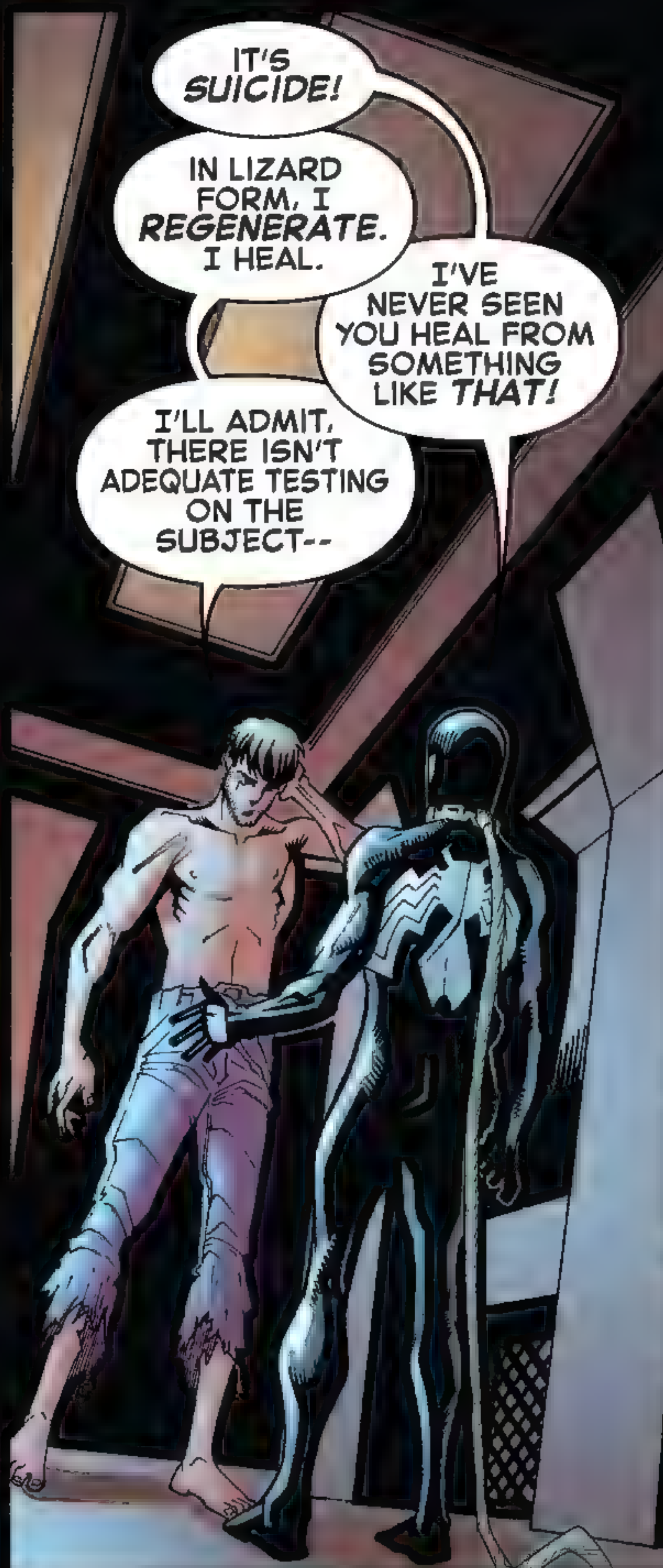
--I'D NEVER
GET PAST THE LINE
OF ARMED GUARDS
AROUND IT, BECAUSE I
HAVE THE INHIBITOR CHIP
ATTACHED TO MY
SPINAL CORD.

NO...

DOC, I
KNOW THAT
TECHNOLOGY. THAT THING
IS HARDWIRED INTO YOUR
CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.
REMOVING IT WOULD **SEVER**
YOUR SPINE. AND IT'S NOT
LIKE I HAVE SURGICAL
TOOLS--I'D HAVE TO
JUST--

YOU'D
DIE.

IT'S
THE ONLY
WAY.



IT'S
SUICIDE!

IN LIZARD
FORM, I
REGENERATE.
I HEAL.

I'VE
NEVER SEEN
YOU HEAL FROM
SOMETHING
LIKE *THAT*!

I'LL ADMIT,
THERE ISN'T
ADEQUATE TESTING
ON THE
SUBJECT--



--BUT
WE HAVE TO
TAKE THE
CHANCE.

DOC,
PLEASE--YOU
CAN'T ASK ME TO
DO THAT. IF YOU
DIDN'T MAKE
IT--

I HAVE A
CODE THAT
I LIVE BY--



**POWER AND
RESPONSIBILITY.**
I KNOW. I'VE HEARD
THE SPEECH. YOU
DON'T HAVE KIDS,
THOUGH, DO
YOU?

NO...



THEN YOU
DON'T KNOW WHAT
RESPONSIBILITY
IS YET.



I DID THE
WORST THING ANY
PERSON COULD EVER
DO. I HAD THE BLOOD
OF MY OWN CHILD
ON MY HANDS.

AND
THEN SOMEHOW,
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T
DESERVE IT, I GOT
ANOTHER CHANCE. BUT
EVERY DAY, I AM
HAUNTED BY WHAT
I DID.

I HAVE
TO MAKE THIS
RIGHT. I HAVE TO
TRY, EVEN IF IT
COSTS ME MY
LIFE--



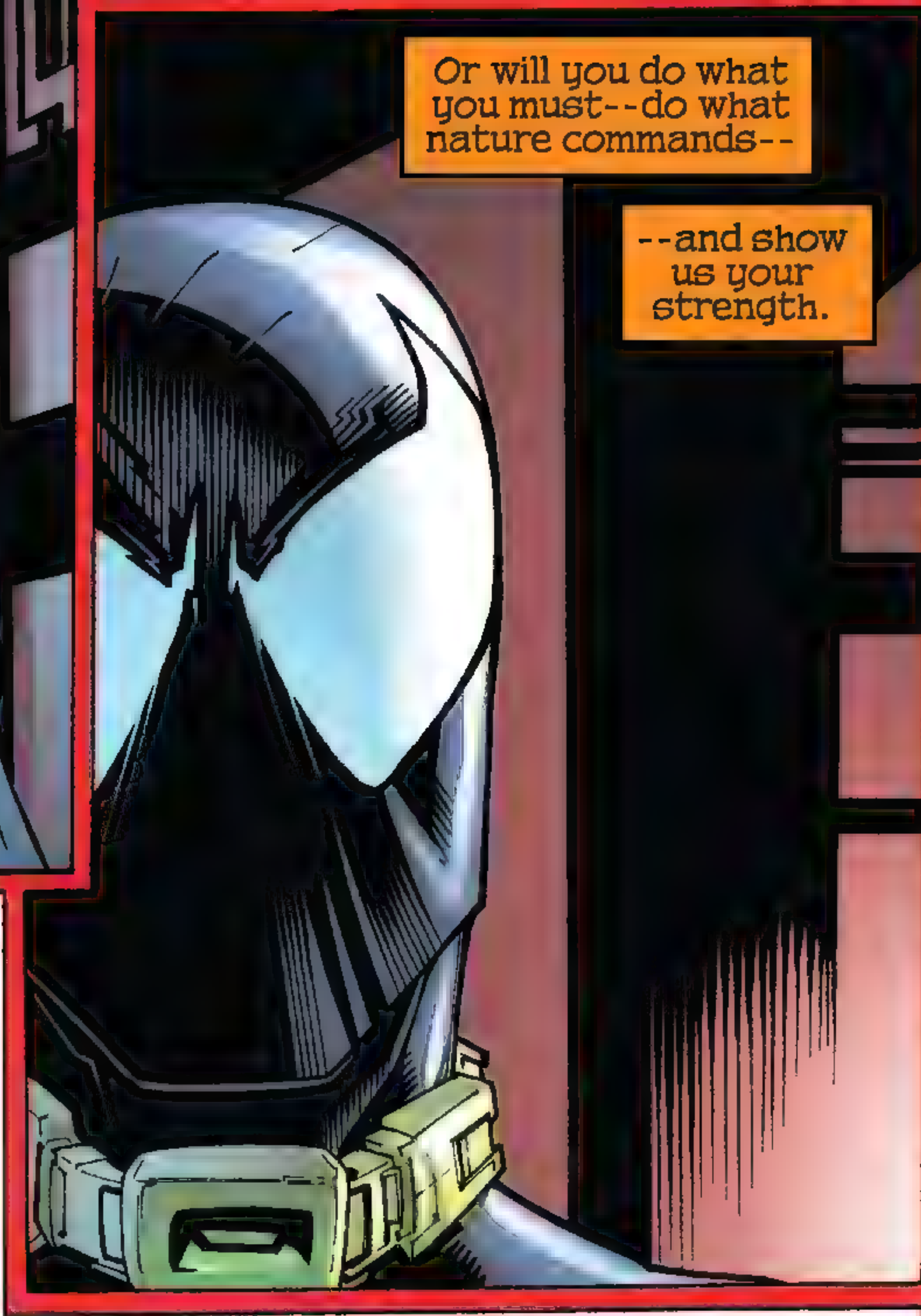
--BECAUSE
I'VE ALREADY LOST
SOMETHING **MORE
PRECIOUS** THAN
THAT ONCE.

Do you
comprehend yet,
little spider?
The grand plan
at play?



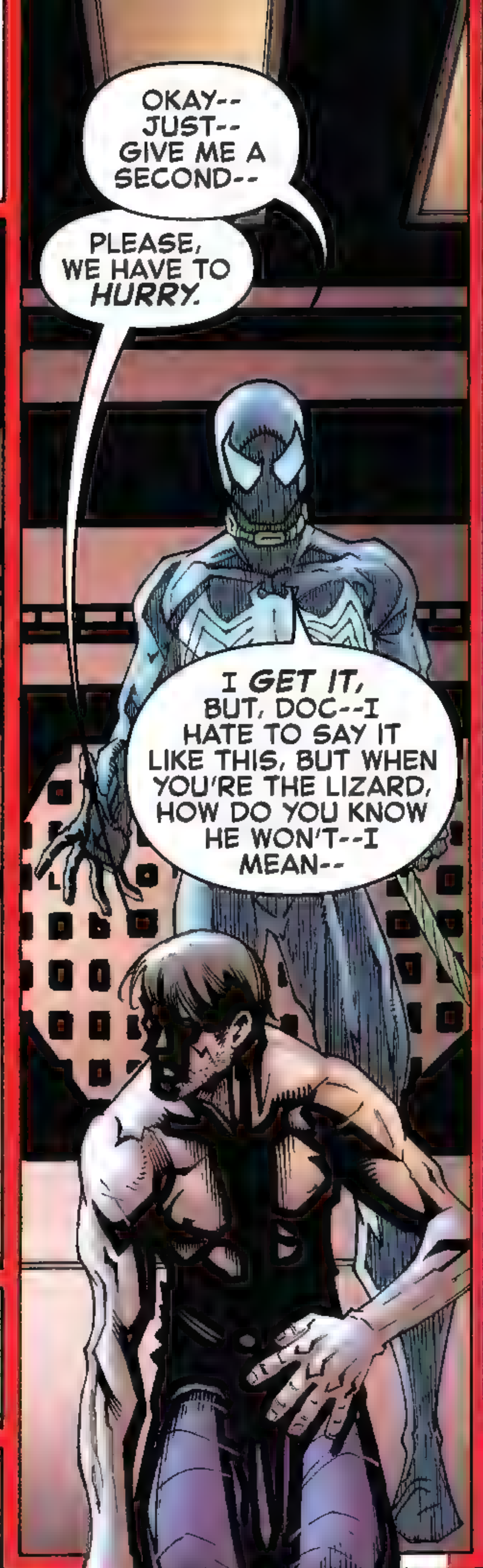
What will you do then, faced with this choice?

Will you listen to the man inside you? The weakling?



Or will you do what you must--do what nature commands--

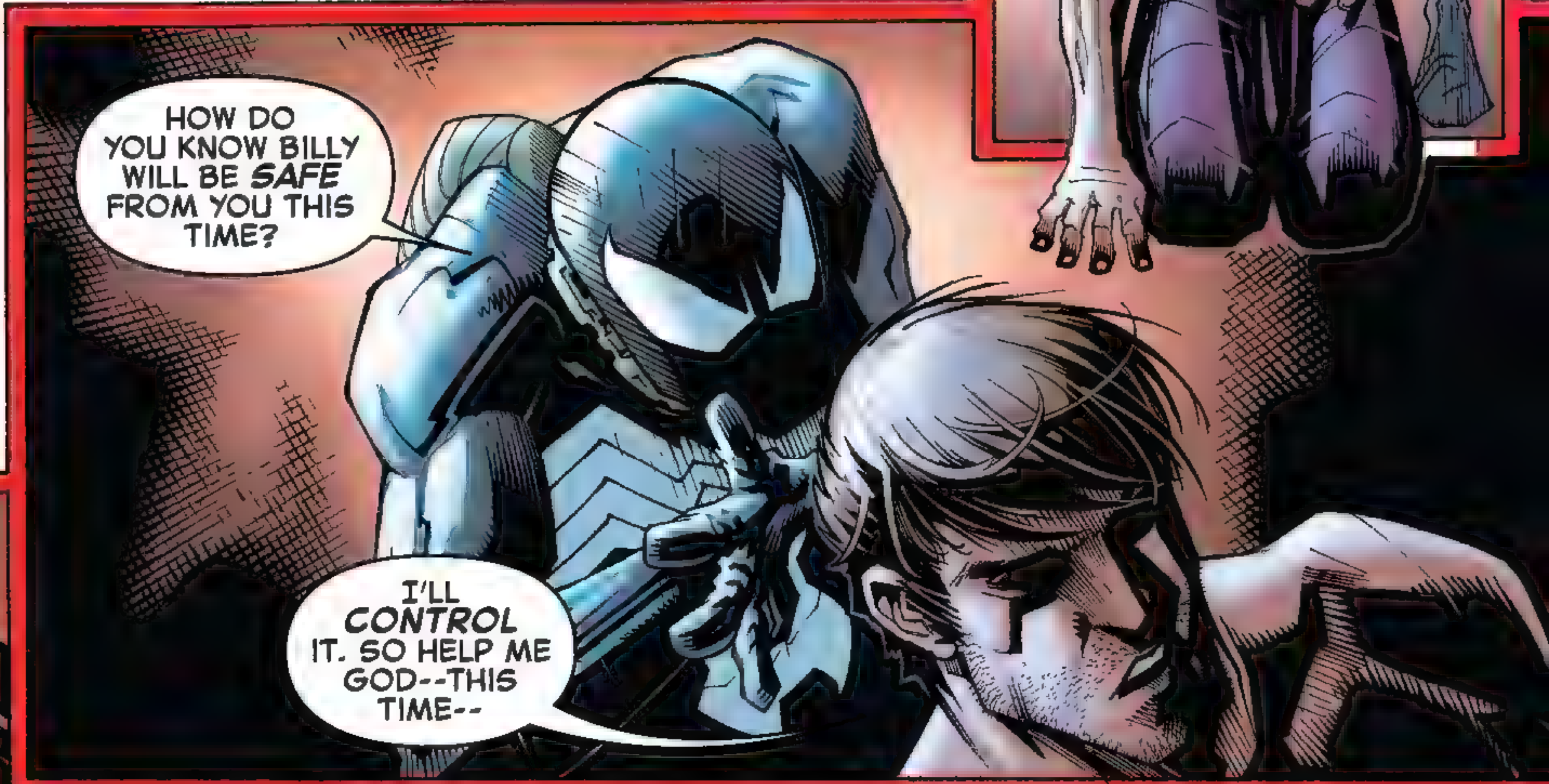
--and show us your strength.



OKAY-- JUST-- GIVE ME A SECOND--

PLEASE, WE HAVE TO HURRY.

I GET IT, BUT, DOC--I HATE TO SAY IT LIKE THIS, BUT WHEN YOU'RE THE LIZARD, HOW DO YOU KNOW HE WON'T--I MEAN--



HOW DO YOU KNOW BILLY WILL BE **SAFE** FROM YOU THIS TIME?

I'LL CONTROL IT. SO HELP ME GOD--THIS TIME--



--I WILL CONTROL IT.



ALL RIGHT THEN. JUST--JUST TRY TO RELAX. ON THE COUNT OF THREE.

ONE... TWO...

ДДДДДДДДГГГН!

My heart
bursts with
pride. With
love.

You have
accepted
your destiny.
Reclaimed
your honor.

ДДДДДДДДГГГН!

You have
passed
your test.

Now you are
ready to face
the Hunter.

ДДДДДДДДГГГН!



WHAT HAVE
I DONE?

YOU *TOLD* ME
TO DO THIS TO
YOU. YOU TOLD
ME IT WAS THE
ONLY WAY,
CURT.

OH GOD,
WHAT HAVE
I DONE?

SHOULD
NEVER HAVE
LISTENED.

I WANT
TO GO
HOME.

IT DIDN'T
WORK. OF
COURSE IT
DIDN'T WORK.

HE'S
DEAD.

PLEASE,
DOC,
YOU HAVE TO
WAKE UP. NOT
JUST FOR
ME.



"FOR BILLY."

YES!
THERE YOU ARE!

--GET UP!



"YOUR SON NEEDS YOU!"



RISE.



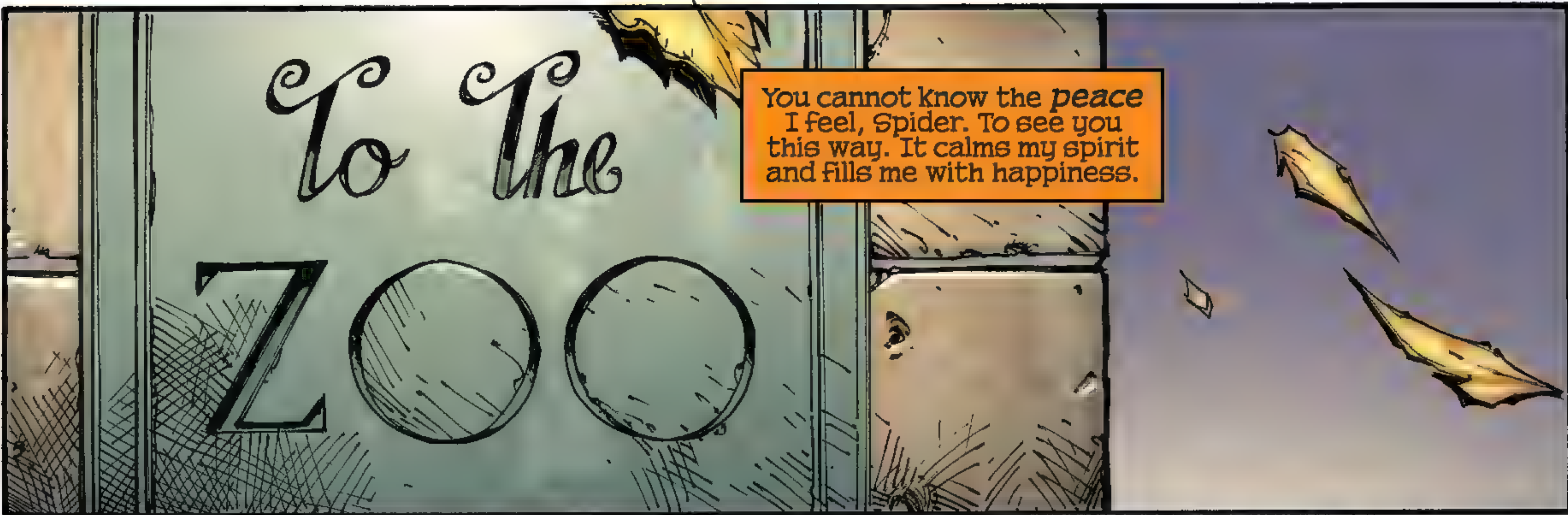
"COME ON, DOC--YOU CAN DO IT! GET UP--"



"RISE!"







You cannot know the *peace*
I feel, Spider. To see you
this way. It calms my spirit
and fills me with happiness.



We have fought
for so long. Pulled
at opposite ends
of the web.

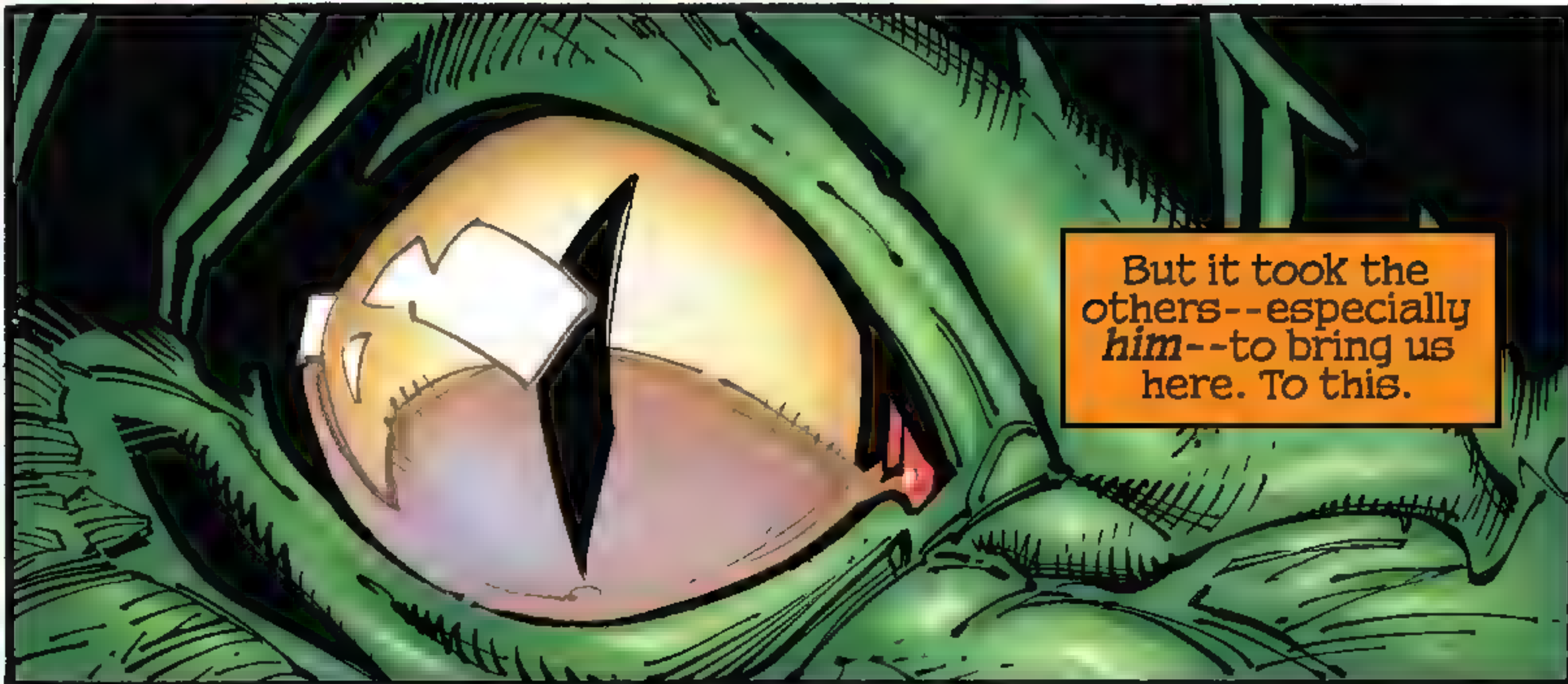


I sought to
hunt you. To
prove myself
your superior.

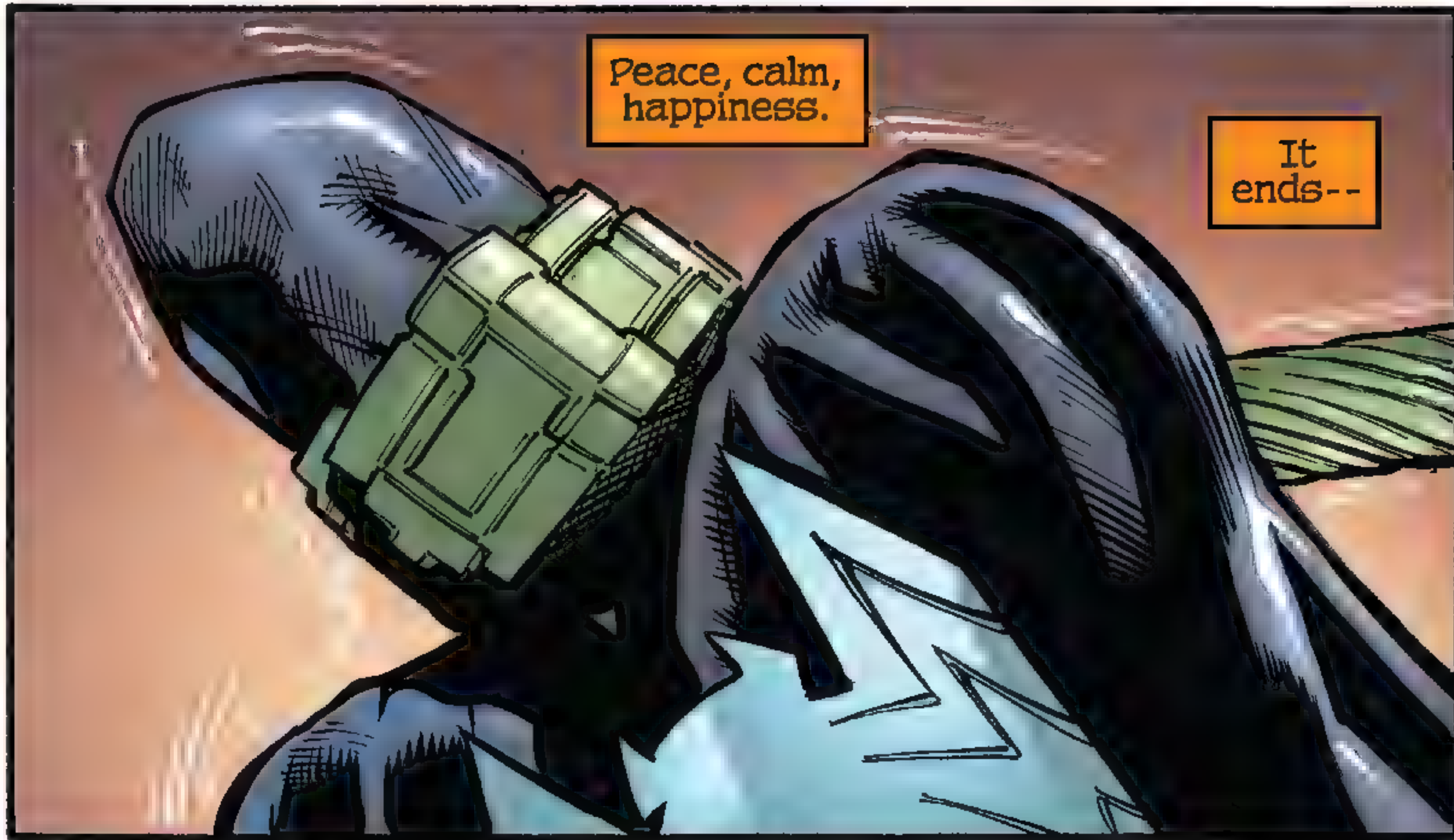


And you, you
wanted to chain
me, break me,
put me in a cage.

We could've gone
on that way for
years more. All
our lives perhaps.



But it took the
others--especially
him--to bring us
here. To this.



Peace, calm,
happiness.

It
ends--

--as all things must.

WHICH OF YOU IS TO BE SACRIFICED FIRST?

I'M SORRY, IS IT A TICKET SYSTEM? LIKE AT THE DELI? EITHER WAY, ME FIRST.

I'M GREEDY LIKE THAT.

I WAS HOPING THAT TO BE THE CASE, CAT. WHAT A TROPHY YOU WILL BE--

--WORTHY OF STEALING.

Do you *feel* it, Spider? Can you *hear* it? Loud and pounding. The drums play a song.

The song tells the truth of all things. That we are all hunted--

--and we are all the hunter. That there is a beast within.

Blood and bone, each of us--



--hungering
for blood
and bone.

I DON'T
GET IT. WHERE
DID THEY ALL
GO?

RIGHT?



CAN'T HIDE
FOREVER...



ON
MY SIGNAL,
FRIENDS--



--WE
GO TO
WAR.

You have wasted
so much time
hiding from this
truth. But now...

...now I
will set
you free.

FREE!

TSSSH

FINALLY! DON'T KNOW
HOW OR WHY, BUT I'LL
TAKE IT. HAVE TO GET
OUT OF HERE.

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME
BEFORE ALL THESE HUNTERBOTS
AND BAD GUYS START TEARING
EACH OTHER APART.

AND LIZARD STILL
HASN'T MADE IT TO
BILLY AND BLACK CAT.
HOPEFULLY HE GOT
THROUGH THE--

--GUARDS.

NO... DEAD. THEY'RE
ALL DEAD. HE KILLED
THEM. HE SAID HE
COULD CONTROL IT!
HE SAID--

THIS IS MY FAULT. I LET
HIM LOOSE. I DID THIS.
AND NOW HE'S ON HIS
WAY TO--OH NO--BILLY!
I HAVE TO--

NOT AN
EASY SIGHT,
IS IT? BUT
THEN--

--LIES ARE ALWAYS MORE BEAUTIFUL.

KRAVEN...

...YOU HAVE TO STOP THIS. NOW.

ONLY YOU CAN STOP IT, SPIDER. AND YOU HAVE TAKEN YOUR FIRST STEPS. MY HEART SWELLS WITH PRIDE. AFTER ALL--

--I DID NOT KNOW IF YOU WOULD PASS THIS TEST.

TEST?

THWIP

TEST?! IS THAT WHAT THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE? JUST ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR SICK GAMES?

HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE YOU KILLED THIS TIME, YOU PSYCHOPATH?!

KRAK

WHO I HAVE KILLED IS INCONSEQUENTIAL.

WHO YOU WOULD KILL IS ALL THAT MATTERS.



DO YOU STILL NOT SEE? I HAD TO PUNISH THOSE WHO DEFILED THE CALL OF THE HUNTER. THE ONES WHO MADE A MOCKERY OF EVERYTHING I STOOD FOR.

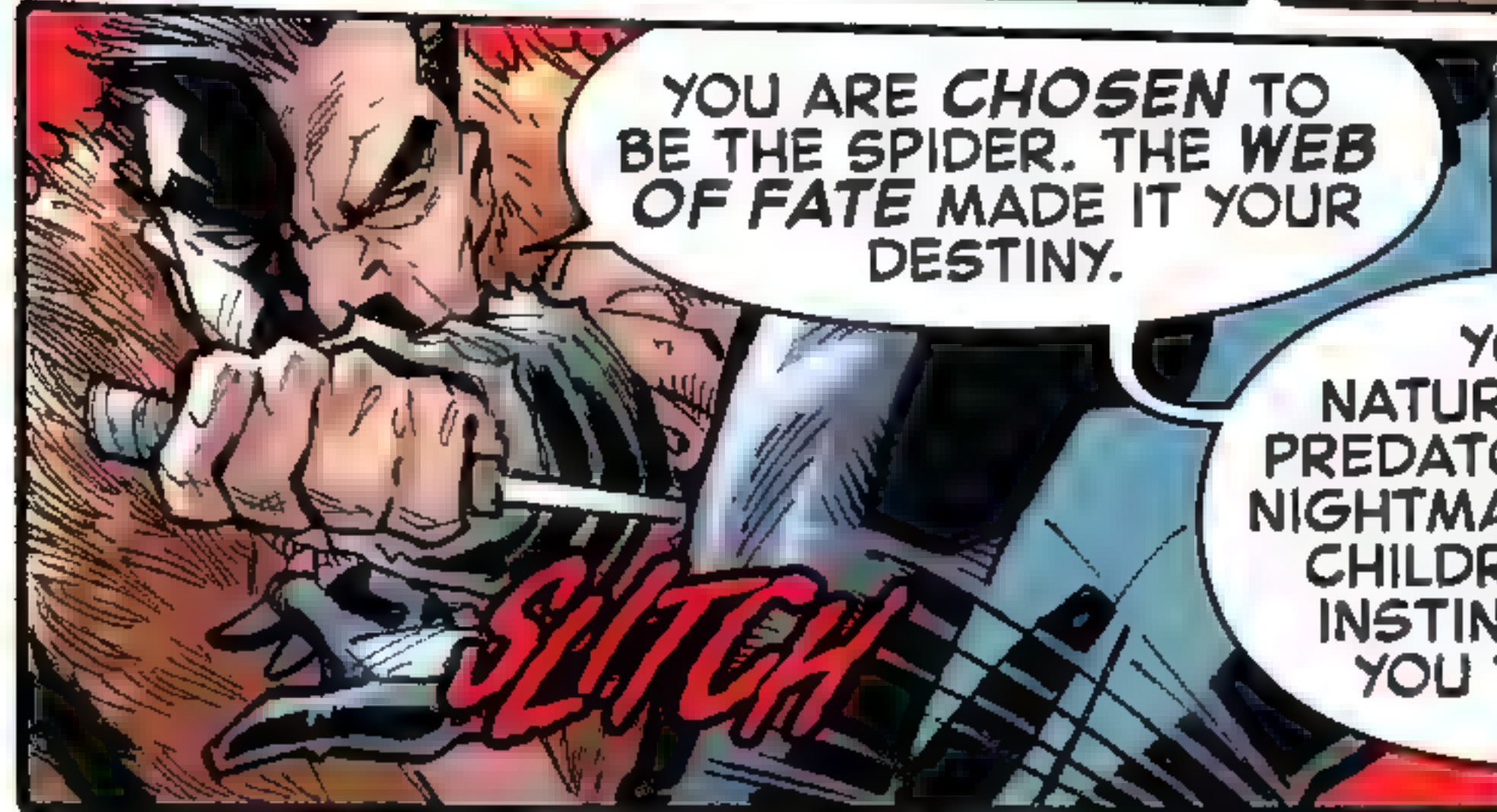
AND THOSE WHO CLAIMED THE SKIN OF ANIMALS WITHOUT THE RIGHT--WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING ITS COST--THEY TOO DESERVED MY HAND.



BUT YOU--



--YOU ARE THE WORST OF THEM ALL.



YOU ARE *CHOSEN* TO BE THE SPIDER. THE WEB OF FATE MADE IT YOUR DESTINY.

SLITCH



YOU ARE NATURE'S PUREST PREDATOR. ITS MOST NIGHTMARISH HUNTER. CHILDREN KNOW BY INSTINCT TO FEAR YOU THE MOST.

SLITCH



I HAVE GAZED IN AWE AT YOUR GIFTS. DESIRED TO MAKE THEM MY OWN.

THD



AND I DID. AFTER ALL, ALL YOU HAVE EVER DONE--

SLITCH



KRAK



--IS SPIT IN THE FACE OF THE GODS WHO MADE YOU!



AMAZING.
STILL YOU CLING
TO YOUR WEAKNESS.
TO THE MAN
INSIDE.

I THOUGHT
MY LAST HUNT
WOULD BE ENOUGH TO
SHOW YOU, TO HELP
YOU UNDERSTAND. YOU
WERE **BORN** TO
HUNT. TO KILL.



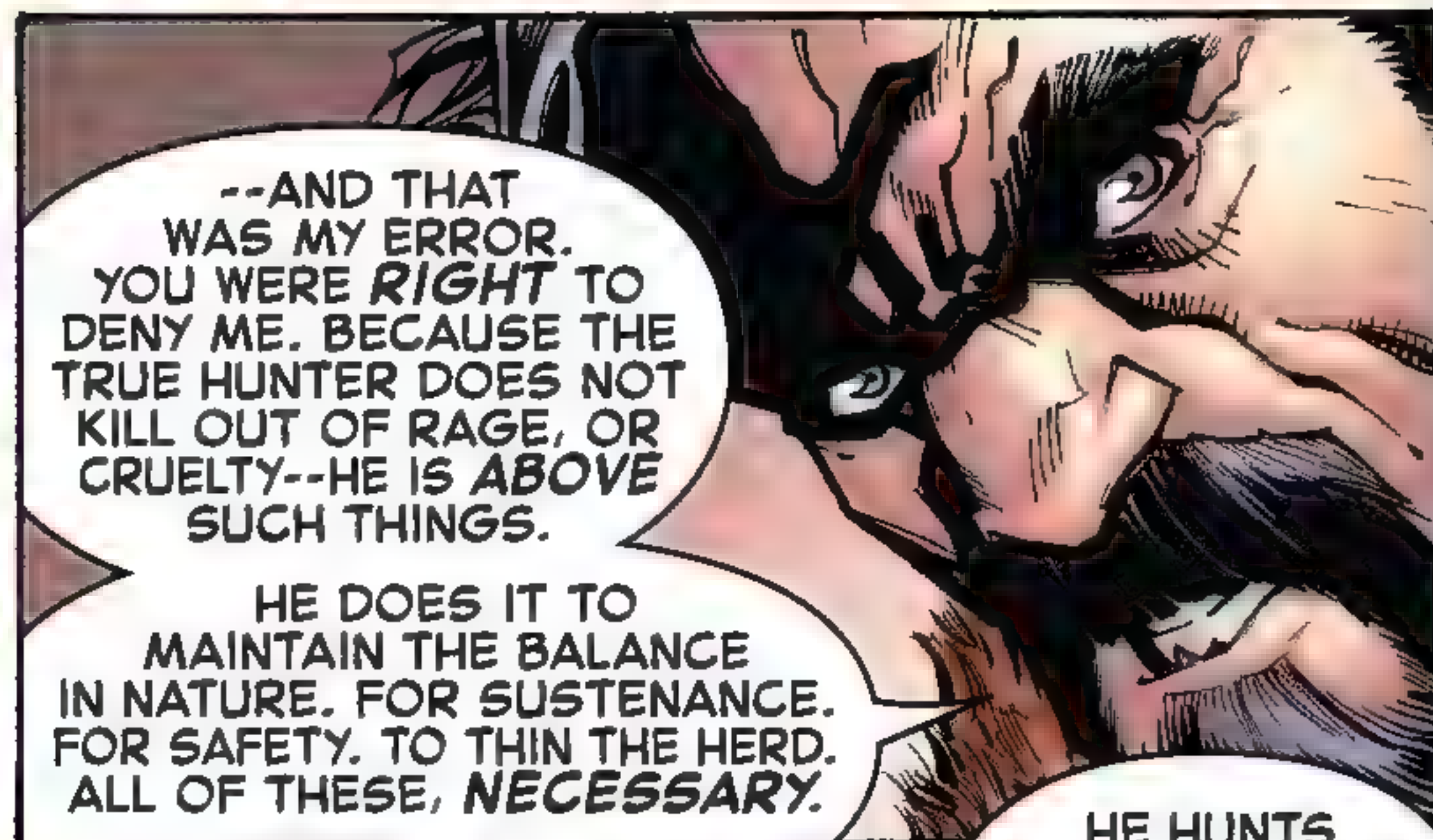
NO--I'M
NOT LIKE
YOU...

AREN'T
YOU? YOU THINK
THAT KILLING IS WRONG.
THAT IT MAKES YOU
EVIL. AND YOU CANNOT
SEE BEYOND THESE
THINGS.



"THAT IS WHY WHEN I WAS
REBORN, YOU REJECTED MY
PLEAS TO PUT ME BACK IN
THE GROUND.

"I TRIED TO APPEAL
TO YOUR ANGER,
YOUR SENSE OF
VENGEANCE IN
THAT MOMENT--"



--AND THAT
WAS MY ERROR.
YOU WERE **RIGHT** TO
DENY ME. BECAUSE THE
TRUE HUNTER DOES NOT
KILL OUT OF RAGE, OR
CRUELTY--HE IS ABOVE
SUCH THINGS.

HE DOES IT TO
MAINTAIN THE BALANCE
IN NATURE. FOR SUSTENANCE.
FOR SAFETY. TO THIN THE HERD.
ALL OF THESE, **NECESSARY**.



HE HUNTS
AND SEES HIS
PLACE **WITHIN** THE
HUNT. HE HONORS
THE ANIMAL'S
SACRIFICE. THERE
IS NO SIN IN THIS.
ONLY SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL AND
NOBLE!

THIS IS MY
CALLING NOW--SO
THAT I MAY KNOW
REST. SO THAT KRAVEN
CAN FINALLY **DIE**.

I MUST
SHOW YOU THE
NECESSITY OF THE
KILL. AND, MY--



--HOW
QUICKLY YOU
SEEM TO HAVE
LEARNED.

NO,
THAT'S NOT
TRUE...

BUT
YOU **DID**,
SPIDER.

YOU WANTED TO SAVE THEM, THE ONES YOU CARE FOR. SO YOU MADE A SACRIFICE.

HE-- CURT--HE DIDN'T DIE!

BUT HE **COULD** HAVE. YOU DECIDED IT WAS WORTH THE CHANCE.

HE TOLD ME TO!

YES. BECAUSE HE COULD SEE THE GOOD IN THAT DEATH. THE REWARD WOULD BE GREATER THAN THE RISK. AND PUSHED TO YOUR BREAKING POINT--SO DID YOU.

OH GOD--IS HE RIGHT?

AND YOU KNEW THE DANGERS OF LETTING THE LIZARD LOOSE. YOU CONSIDERED THAT AS WELL--

--SO THESE GUARDS' LIVES WERE FORFEIT BY YOUR DECREE AS WELL, THEN.

NO... I'M SO SORRY...

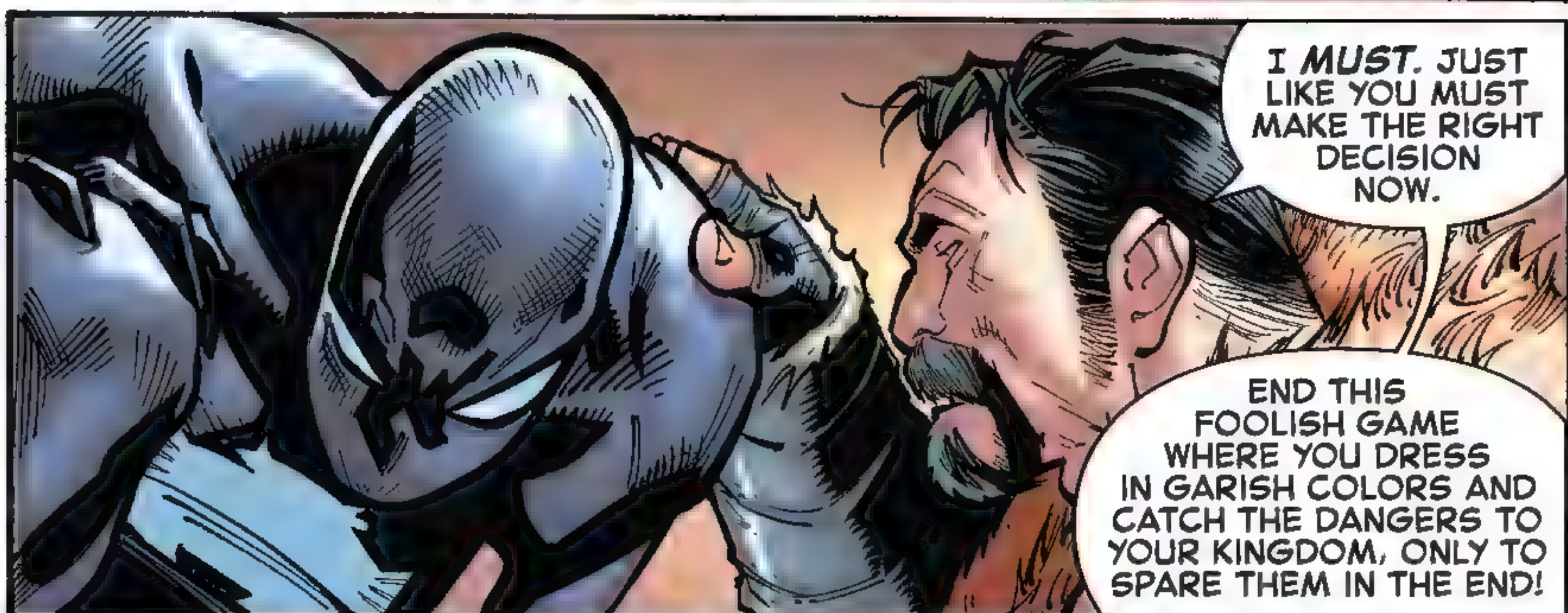
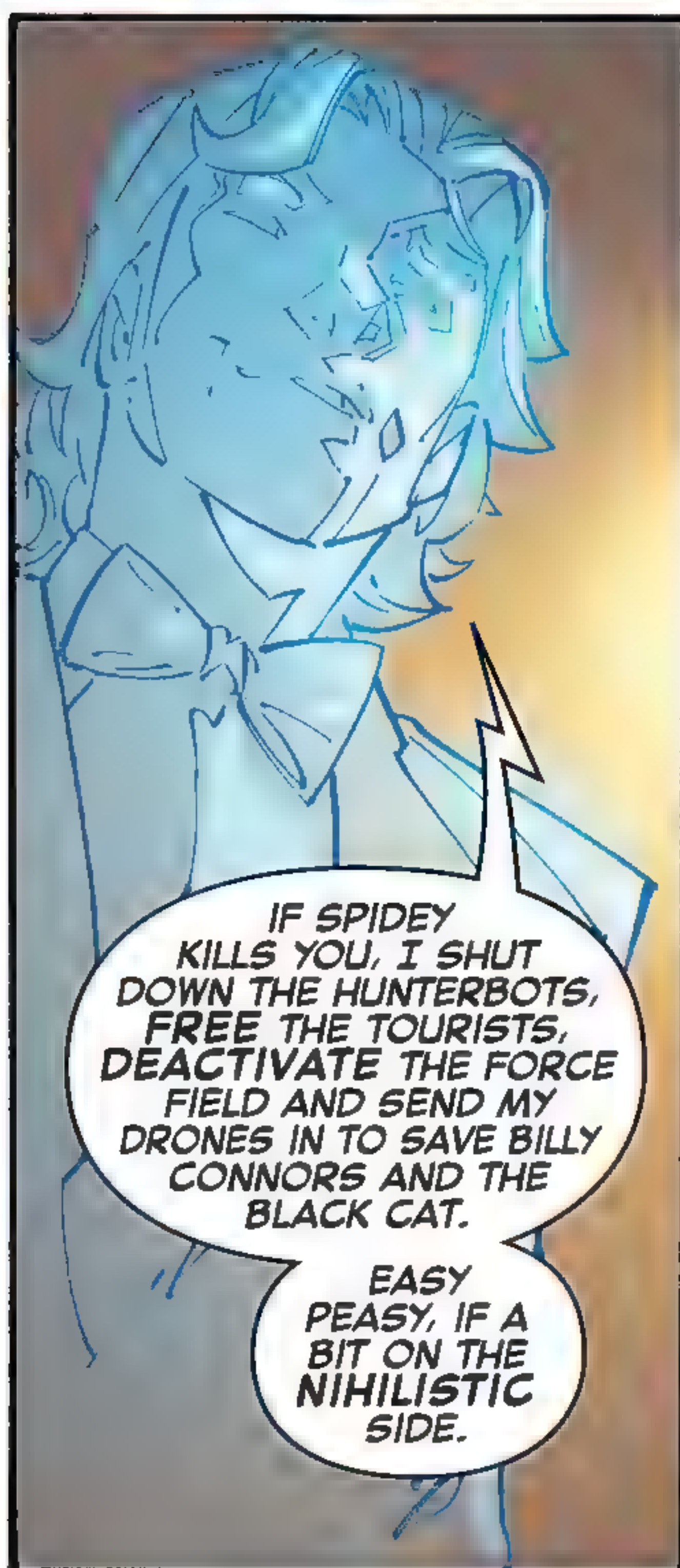
YOU SHOULD **NEVER** APOLOGIZE FOR SUCH A THING. WHAT ARE THE LIVES OF MERCENARIES-- KILLERS THEMSELVES-- IN COMPARISON TO AN INNOCENT CHILD AND THE WOMAN TRYING TO PROTECT HIM?

I DIDN'T MEAN FOR THIS TO HAPPEN...

WHY CAN'T I THINK STRAIGHT?

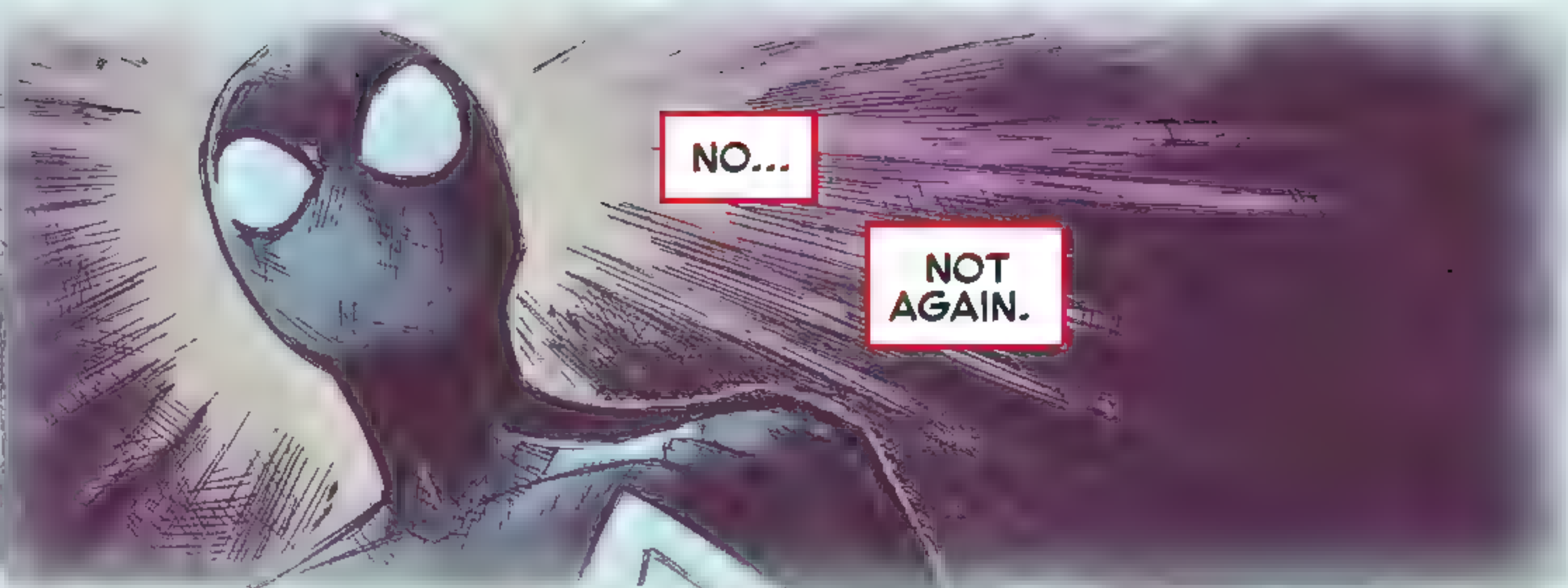
THIS IS WHAT A HUNTER **DOES**. HE KILLS THE TIGER TO SAVE THE VILLAGE. YOU **FEEL** IT, DON'T YOU? THE WEB AROUND YOU, THE STRANDS PULLING YOU CLOSER TO YOUR DESTINY...

NOW I WILL SHOW YOU THE TRUTH. ARCADE--





UNTIL IT COSTS YOU EVERYTHING?



NO...

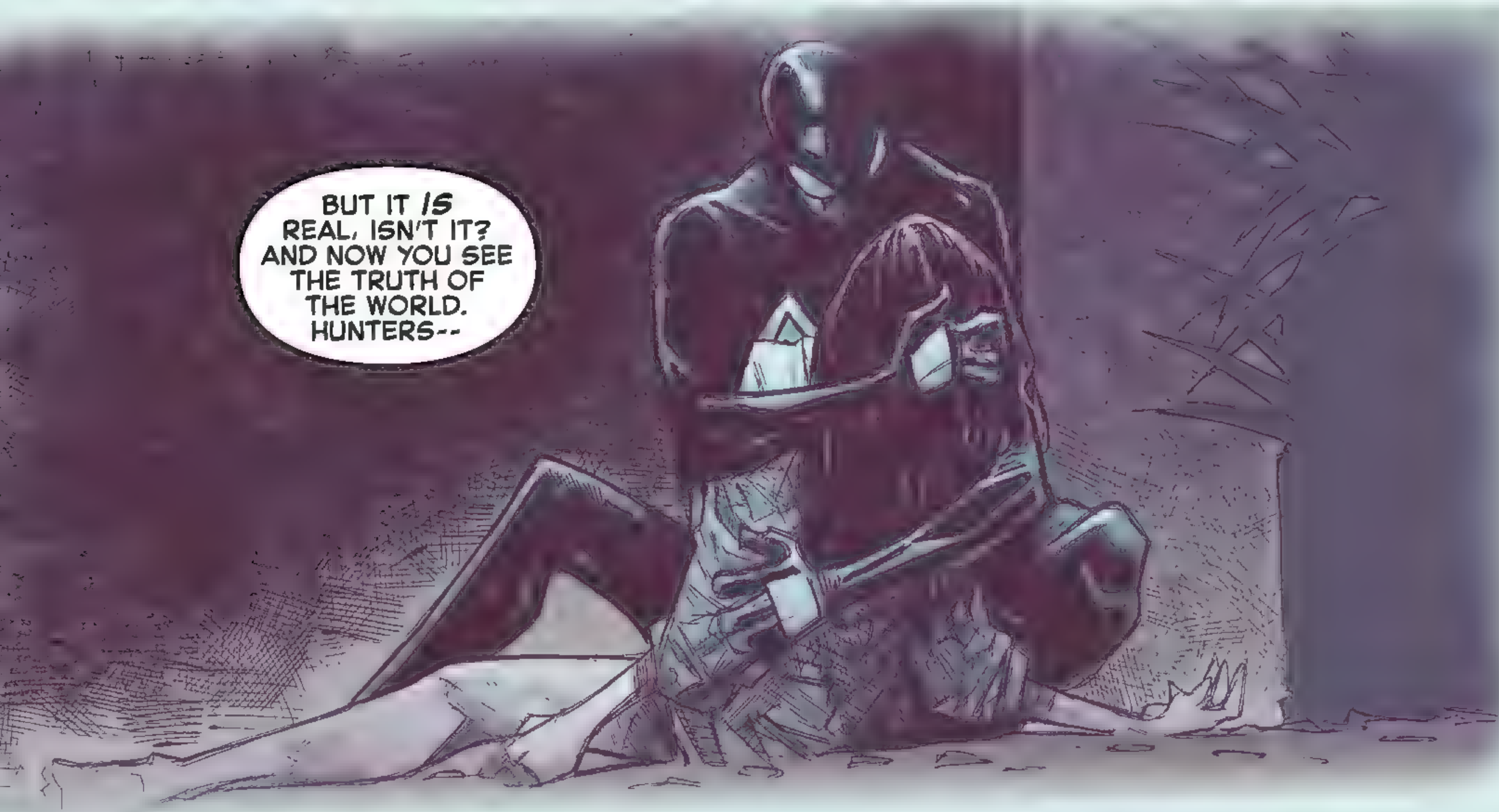
NOT AGAIN.



MJ!



THIS ISN'T REAL... IT CAN'T BE...



BUT IT *IS* REAL, ISN'T IT? AND NOW YOU SEE THE TRUTH OF THE WORLD. HUNTERS--



--AND HUNTED.



ALL BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT HER...



YOU
WANNA SEE
STRONG?!

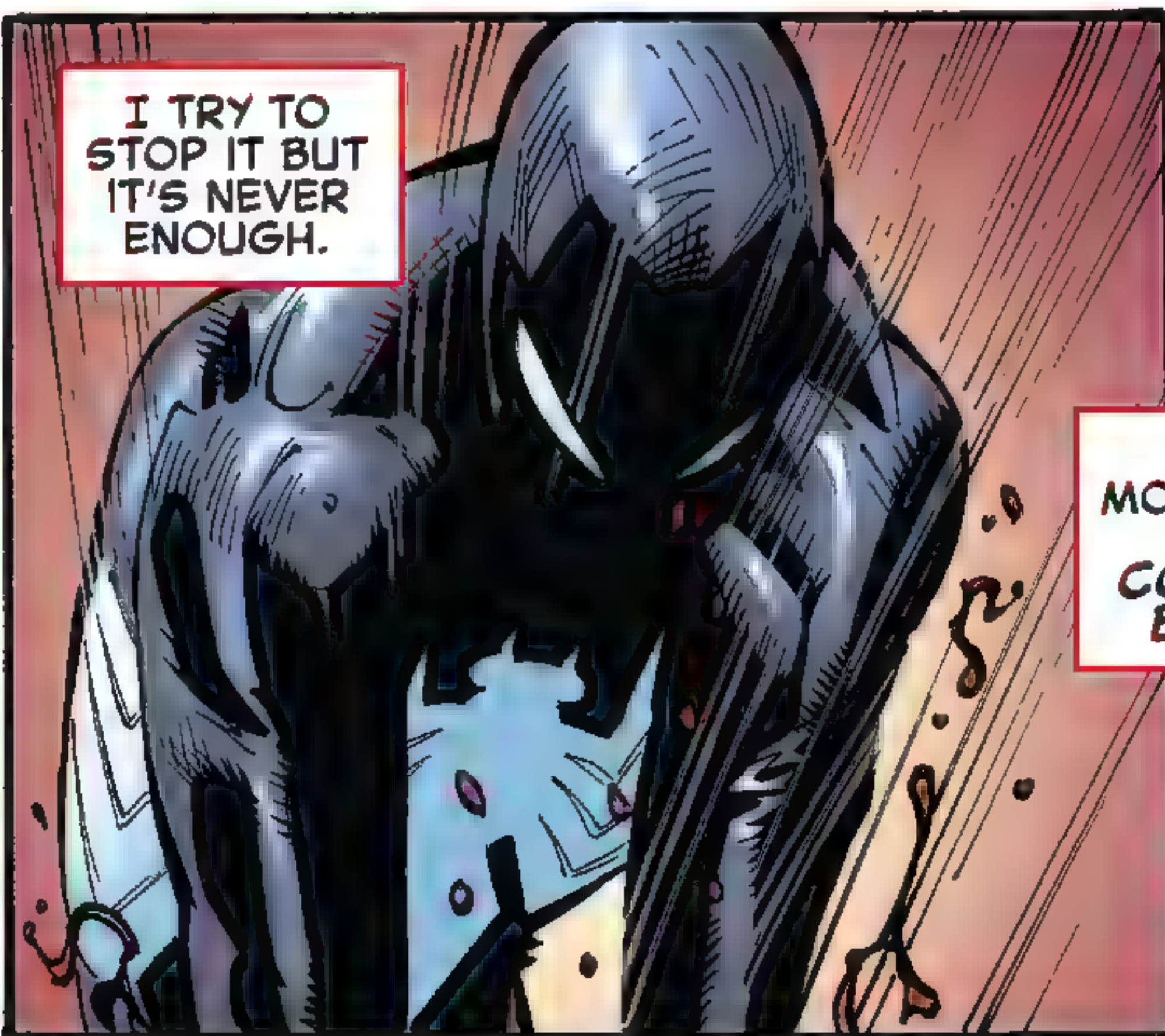
UNCLE BEN. GWEN.
FLASH. SO MANY
OTHERS...



AND THEY'D BE
ALIVE TODAY
IF I'D--



THEY'RE GONNA KEEP
DYING. ONE AFTER THE
OTHER. EVERYONE I LOVE...



I TRY TO
STOP IT BUT
IT'S NEVER
ENOUGH.



THE
MONSTERS
KEEP
COMING
BACK.

NO MATTER WHAT
I DO, IT KEEPS
GETTING WORSE.

LIKE TONIGHT,
WITH THE LIZARD--
NOW LOOK
WHAT HE--

DID?

WAIT--THAT...
THAT ISN'T
RIGHT...

THESE GUYS WERE
SUPPOSED TO BE
KILLED BY THE LIZARD--
BUT LORD KNOWS I'VE
TREATED THE KIND OF
SLASH WOUNDS HE
DOES OUT ENOUGH
TIMES ON MYSELF.

BUT THESE
ARE FINE CUTS
AND JUST ONE
ROW AT A TIME.
MORE LIKE IT
WAS DONE--

--WITH A
KNIFE.

HIM! ALL
THIS--IT'S WHAT
HE WANTED.

USING HIS POISONS AND
HIS POTIONS...STAGING A
MASSACRE...PUSHING
ME TO MY LIMITS.

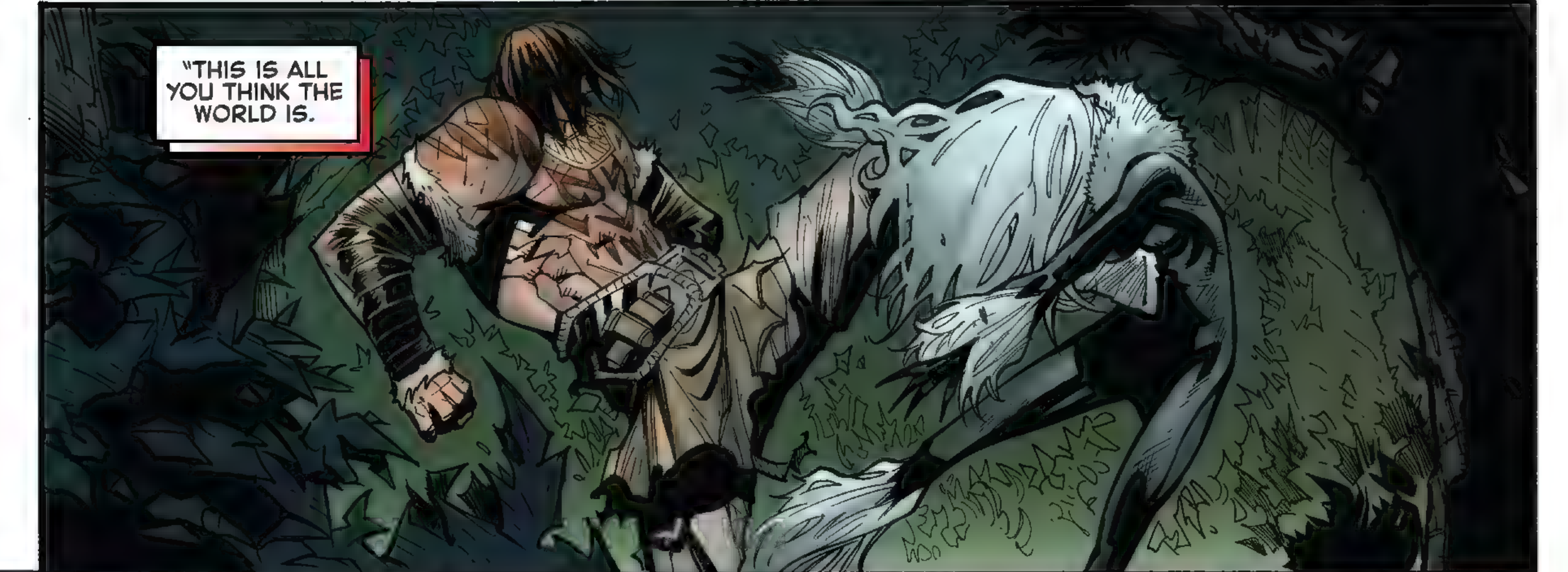
ALL TRYING TO
FORCE ME TO FACE
SOMETHING I DON'T
WANT TO FACE.

WELL, TWO CAN
PLAY AT THAT GAME!

SPIDER--
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

WATCH,
KRAVEY.

I JUST
WANT YOU TO
WATCH.



"THIS IS ALL
YOU THINK
THE
WORLD IS.



"PAIN AND VIOLENCE.
THE POWERFUL DEVOUR
THE WEAK, RIGHT?



SLATCH

"AND AS MUCH
AS I HATE TO
ADMIT IT, A LOT
OF THE TIME--



"--YOU'RE
NOT
WRONG.



"BUT I'VE
SEEN
SOMETHING
ELSE.

"YOU THINK
THE TRUTH
IS LOUD. I
DISAGREE.



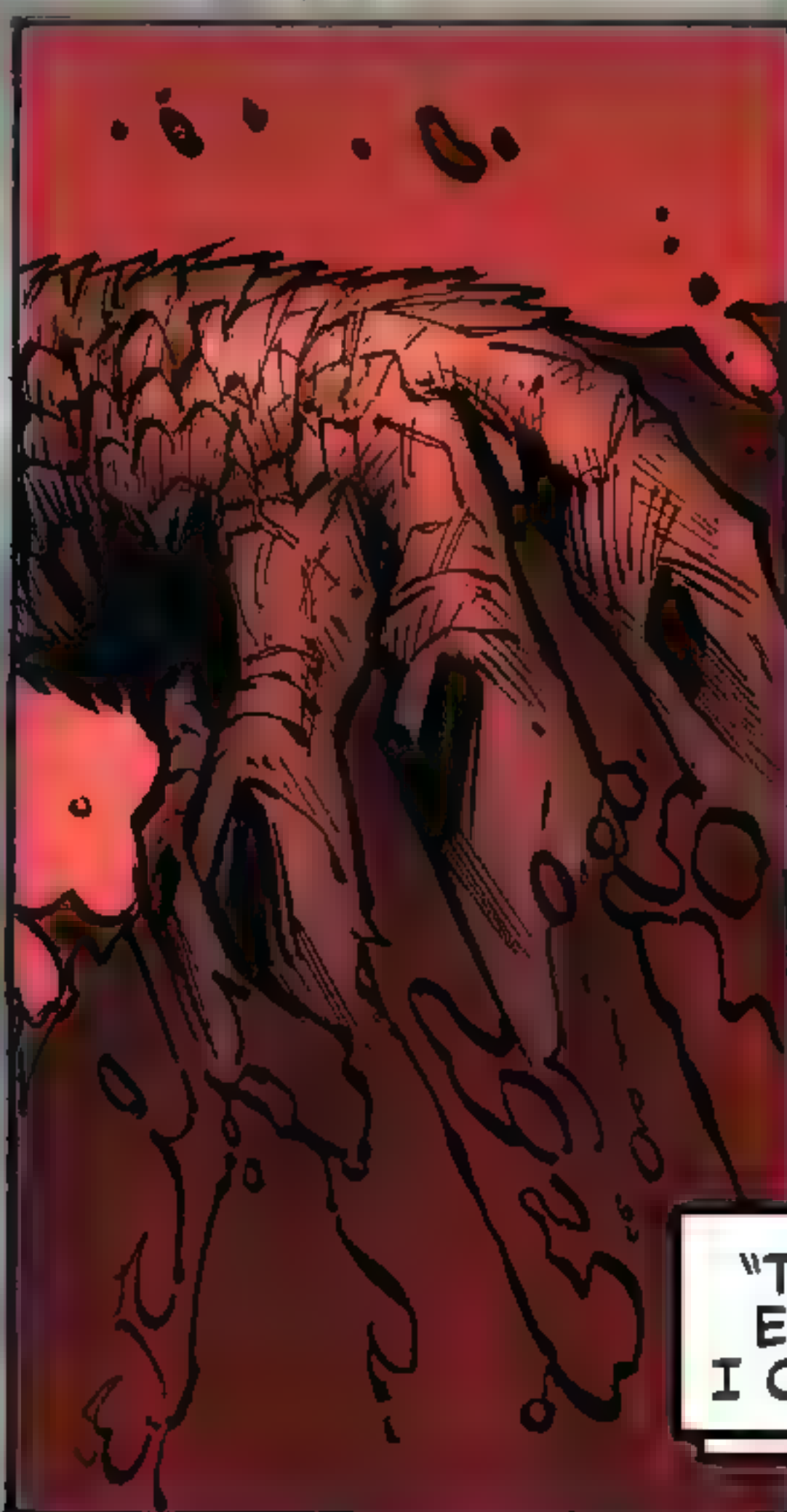
"IN MY
EXPERIENCE,
IT'S QUIET.



"IT SNEAKS
UP ON YOU."



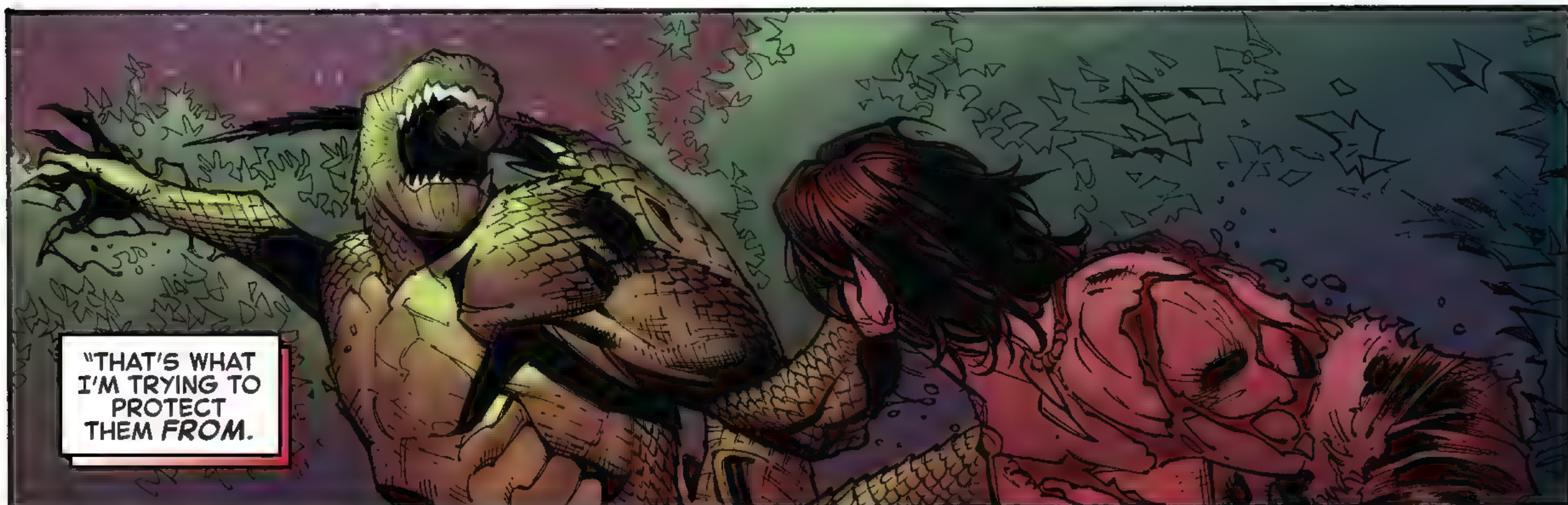
"YOU WANT ME
TO BELIEVE I
HAVE TO BE LIKE
YOU TO SURVIVE."



"TO PROTECT
EVERYTHING
I CARE ABOUT."



"BUT YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND."



"THAT'S WHAT
I'M TRYING TO
PROTECT
THEM FROM."



"WE ARE MORE
THAN BLOOD
AND BONE."



"I LEARNED
THAT FROM THE
PEOPLE WHO
RAISED ME--"



"--AND I SEE IT ALL
THE TIME IN THE
PEOPLE I LOVE."



"WE WEREN'T MEANT
TO JUST CHASE AND
DEVOUR EACH OTHER,
CONSTANTLY LOOKING
OVER OUR SHOULDERS
OR SEARCHING OUT
SOME NEW VICTIM."

"WE'RE HERE TO **HELP**
ONE ANOTHER. **CARE**
FOR ONE ANOTHER."

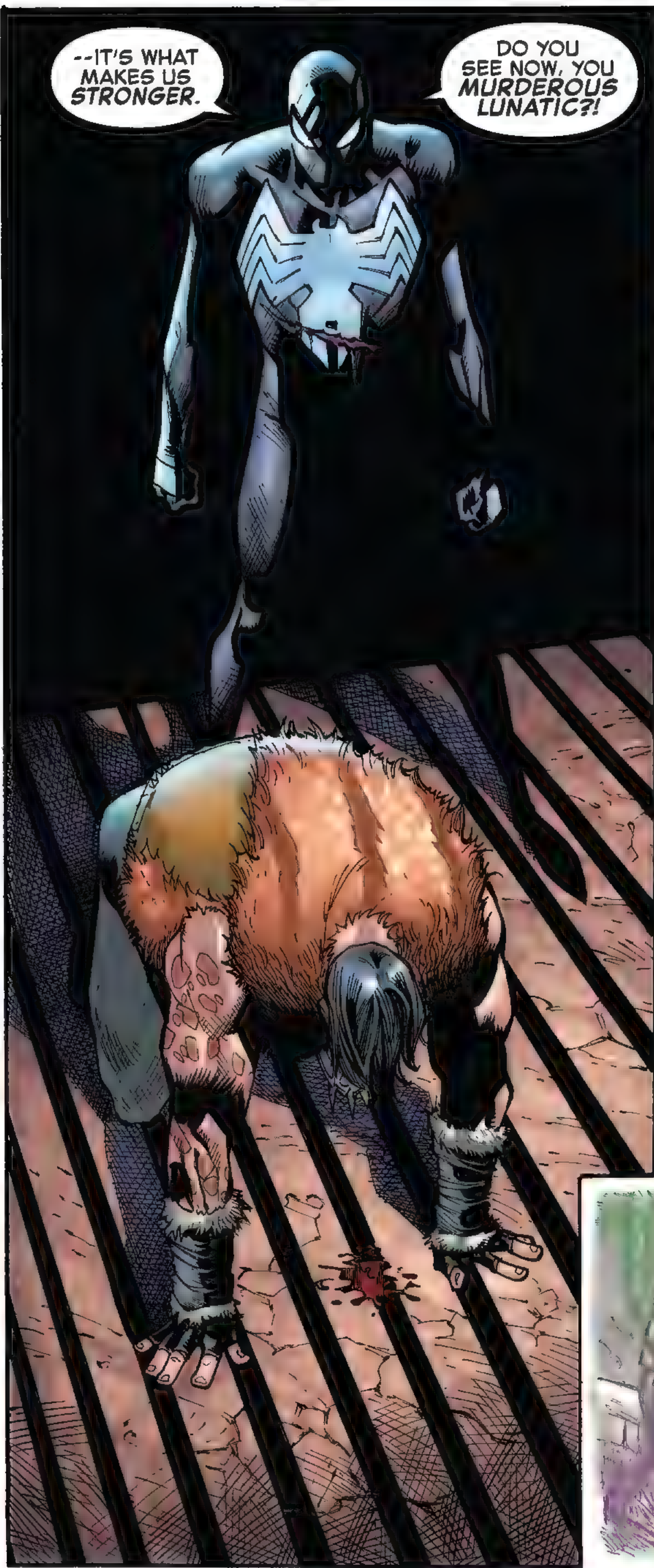


"LIFT EACH OTHER
UP. WE GIVE
OURSELVES TO
OTHER PEOPLE--"



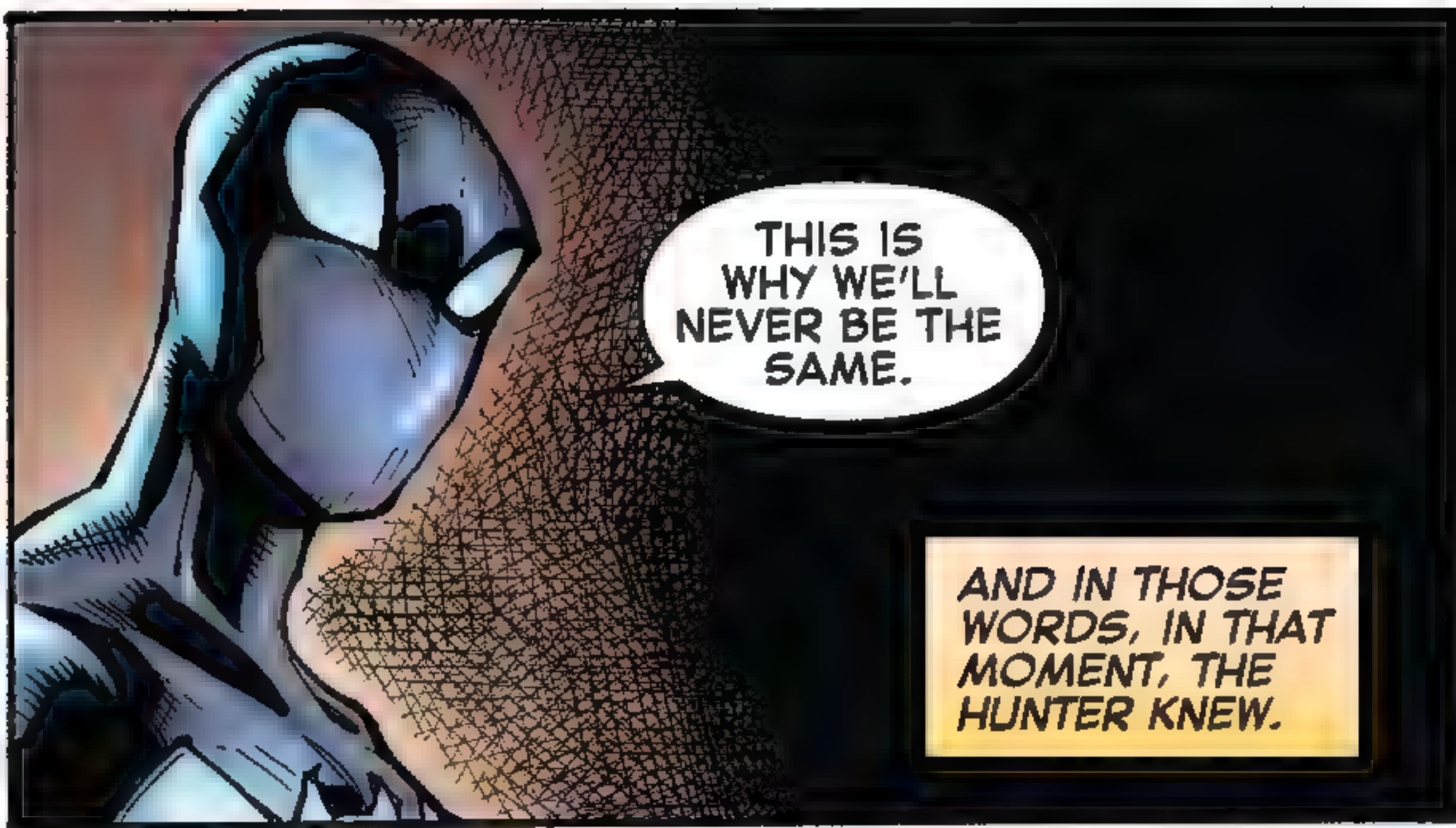
"--NO
MATTER WHAT
IT COSTS US."

"BELIEVING THAT
DOESN'T MAKE US
NAIVE, OR **WEAKER**
THAN YOU--"



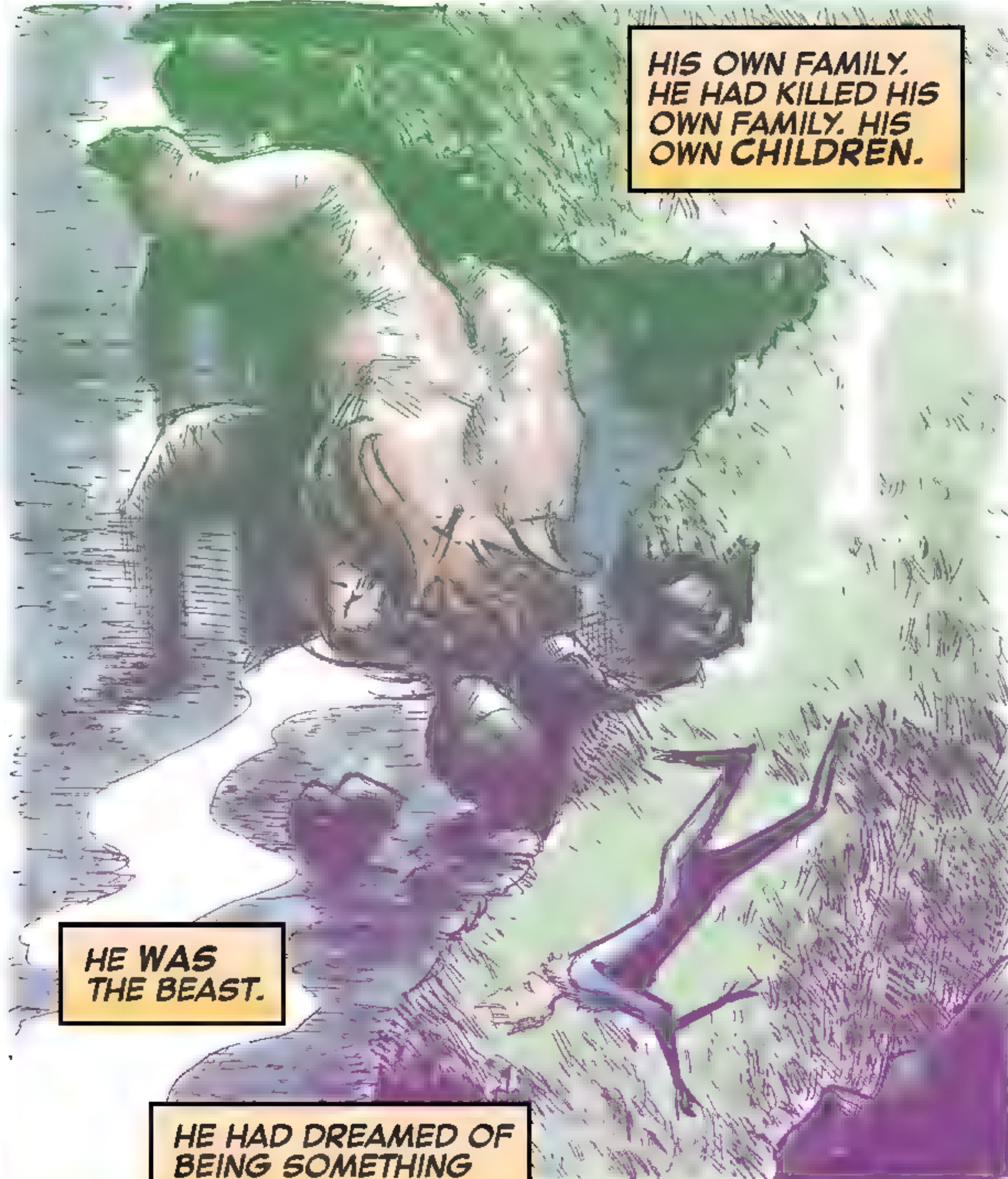
--IT'S WHAT
MAKES US
STRONGER.

DO YOU
SEE NOW, YOU
MURDEROUS
LUNATIC?!



THIS IS
WHY WE'LL
NEVER BE THE
SAME.

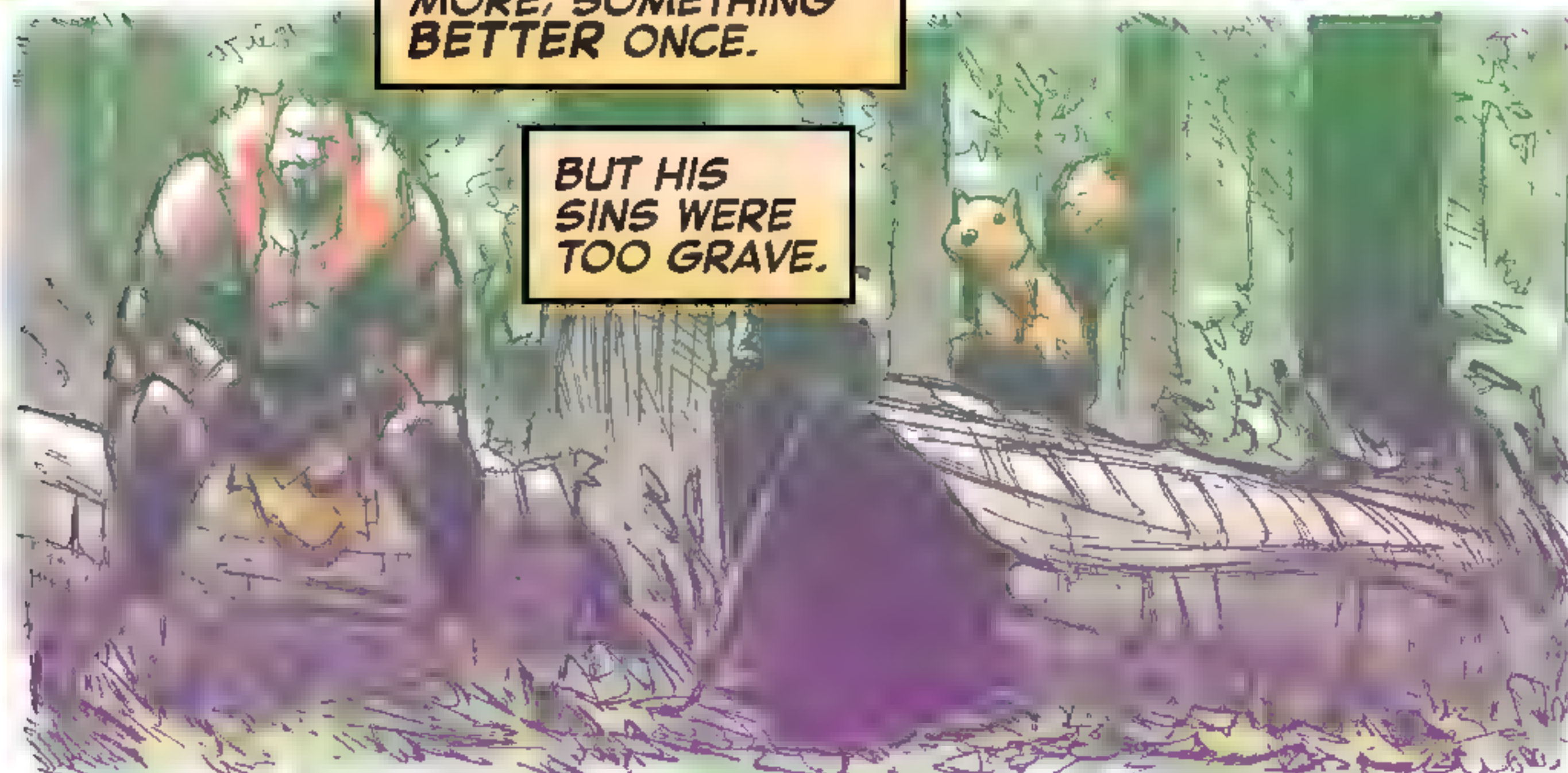
AND IN THOSE
WORDS, IN THAT
MOMENT, THE
HUNTER KNEW.



HIS OWN FAMILY.
HE HAD KILLED HIS
OWN FAMILY. HIS
OWN CHILDREN.

HE WAS
THE BEAST.

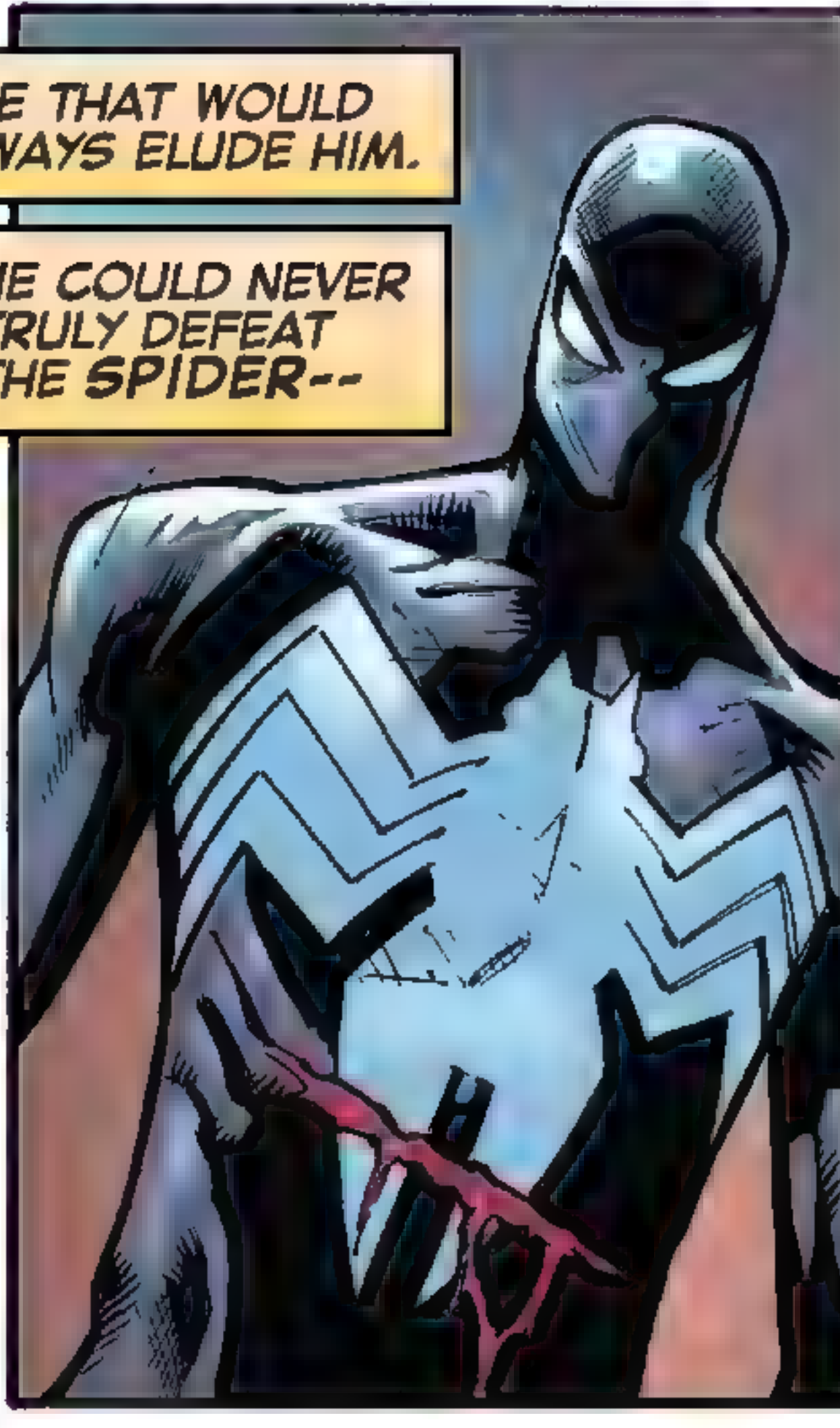
HE HAD DREAMED OF
BEING SOMETHING
MORE, SOMETHING
BETTER ONCE.



BUT HIS
SINS WERE
TOO GRAVE.



HE TRIED TO RUN FROM THEM, TO
CHASE EVER-GREATER PRIZES, TO
REBUILD HIS KINGDOM. BUT IN THE
END, HE HAD BUT ONE PREY.

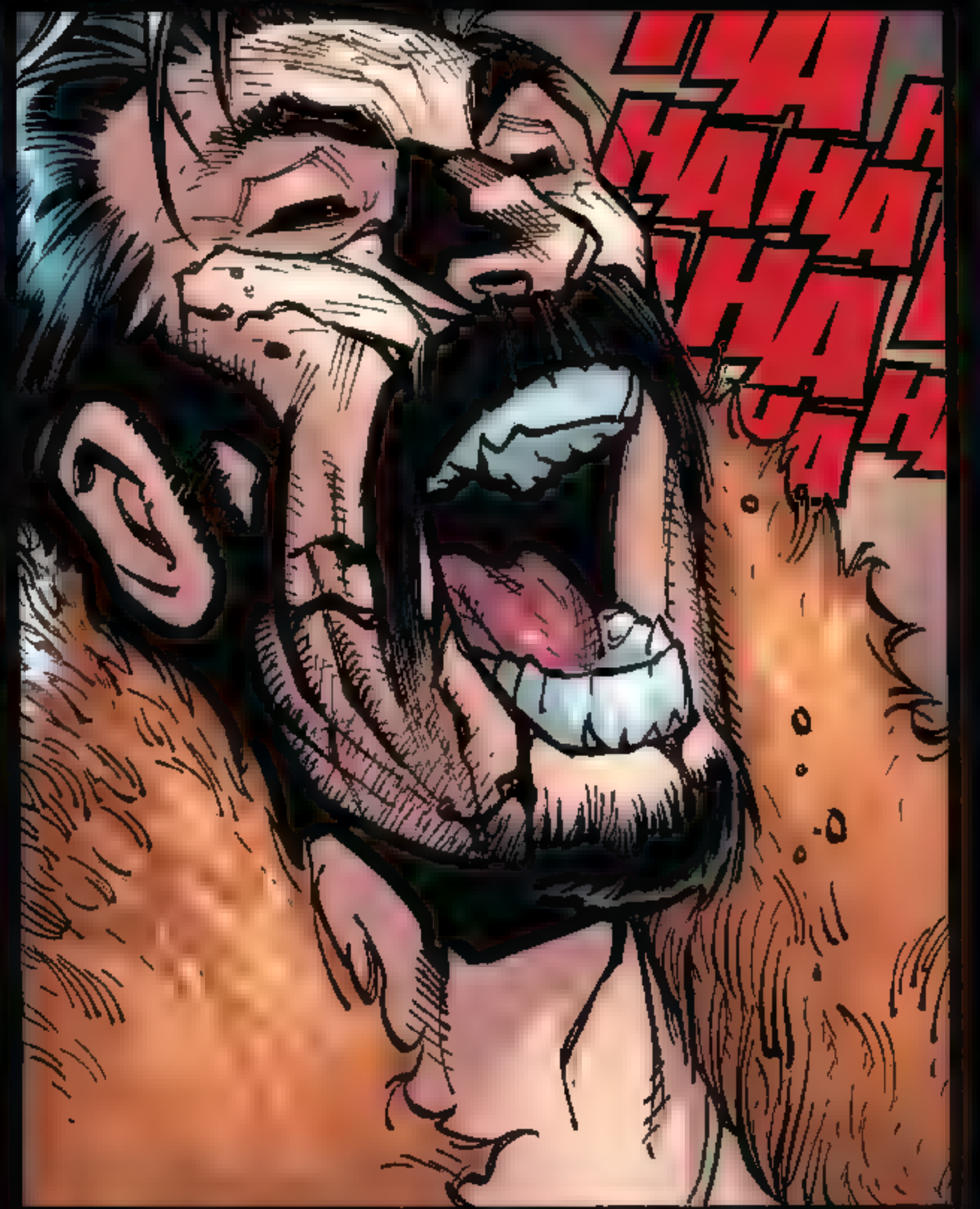


ONE THAT WOULD
ALWAYS ELUDE HIM.

HE COULD NEVER
TRULY DEFEAT
THE SPIDER--

--AND NOW HE
KNEW WHY.

NOW HE
KNEW WHAT
HE MUST DO.



WHAT'S
SO
FUNNY?

I FINALLY--
HA HA HA
--I FINALLY
UNDERSTAND,
DON'T YOU
SEE?

I FINALLY
UNDERSTAND.

WAIT...YOU
DO? I MEAN,
I KNOW IT WAS A
GOOD SPEECH,
BUT--

ARCADE,
CAN YOU
HEAR ME?

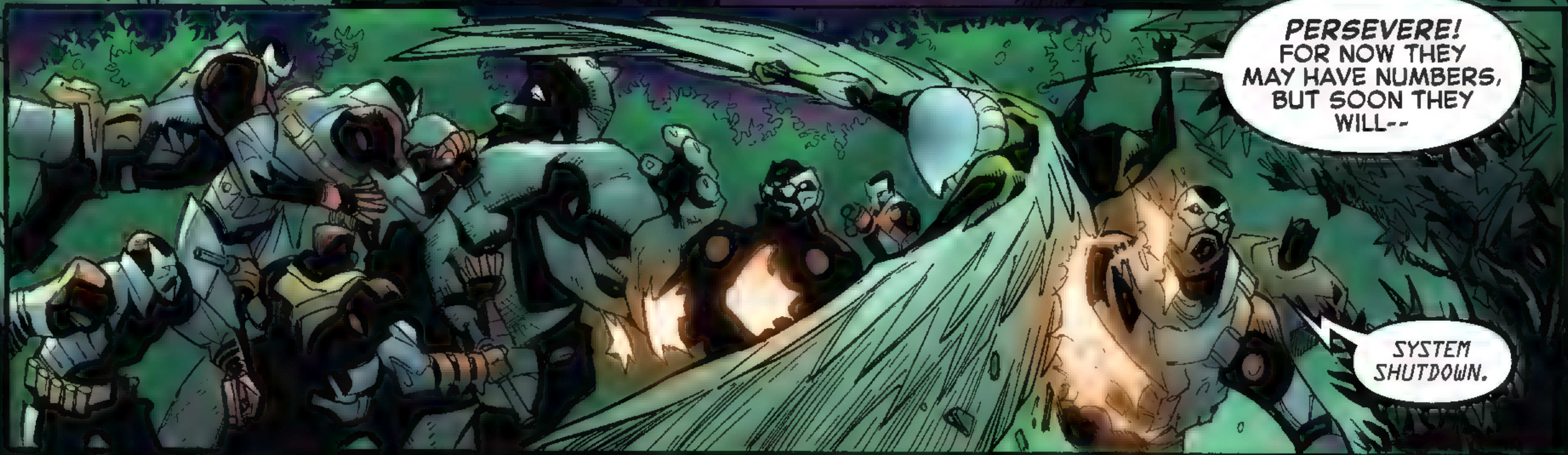
UH,
YES, BOSS,
LOUD AND
CLEAR...



"I HAVE NEW
ORDERS
FOR YOU..."

FORWARD,
YOU COWARDS!
GIVE THEM
HELL!

THERE'S
TOO MANY
OF THEM!



PERSEVERE!
FOR NOW THEY
MAY HAVE NUMBERS,
BUT SOON THEY
WILL--

SYSTEM
SHUTDOWN.



EH?



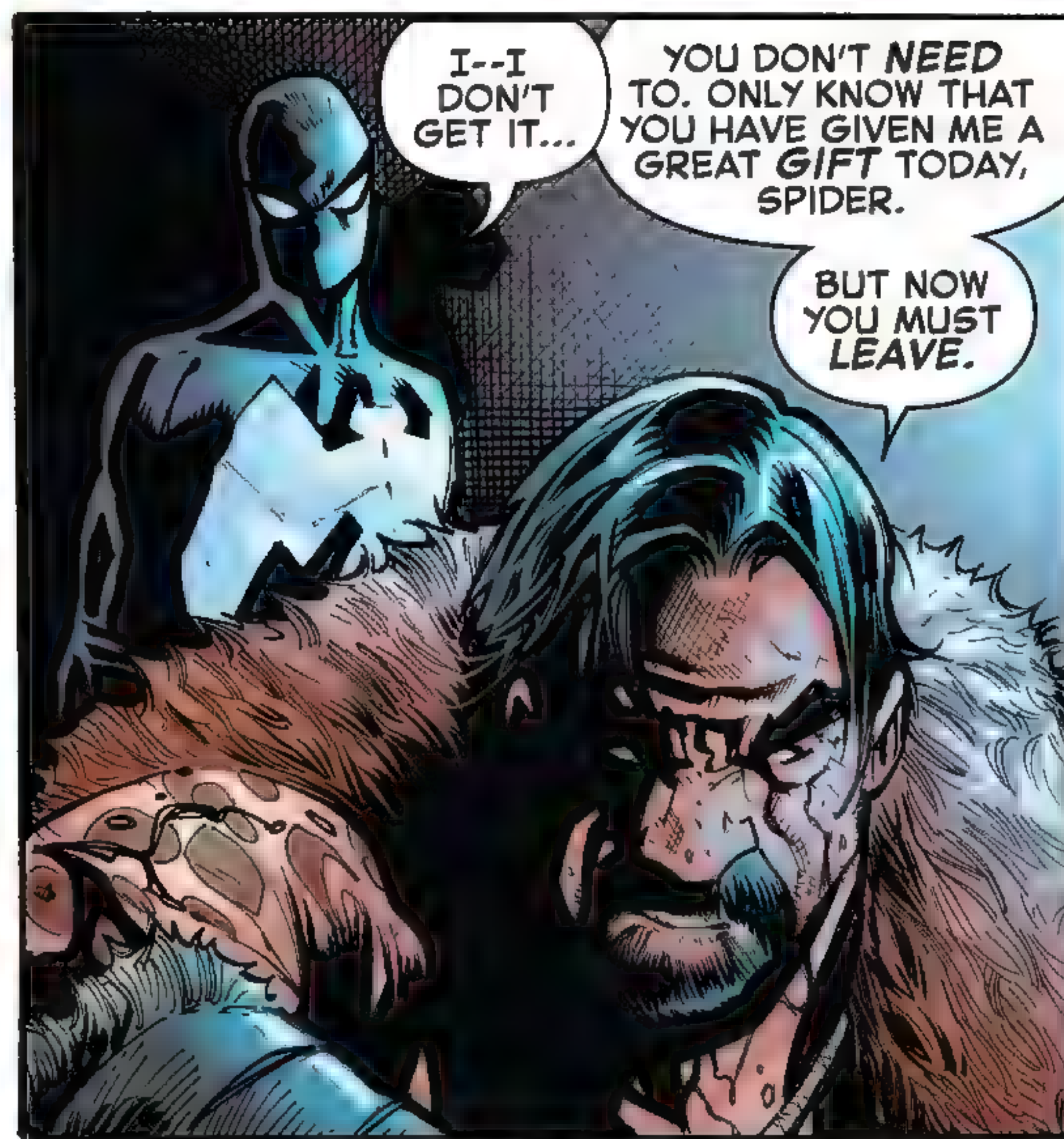
SYSTEM
SHUTDOWN.

SYSTEM
SHUTDOWN.

SYSTEM
SHUTDOWN.

SYSTEM
SHUTDOWN.

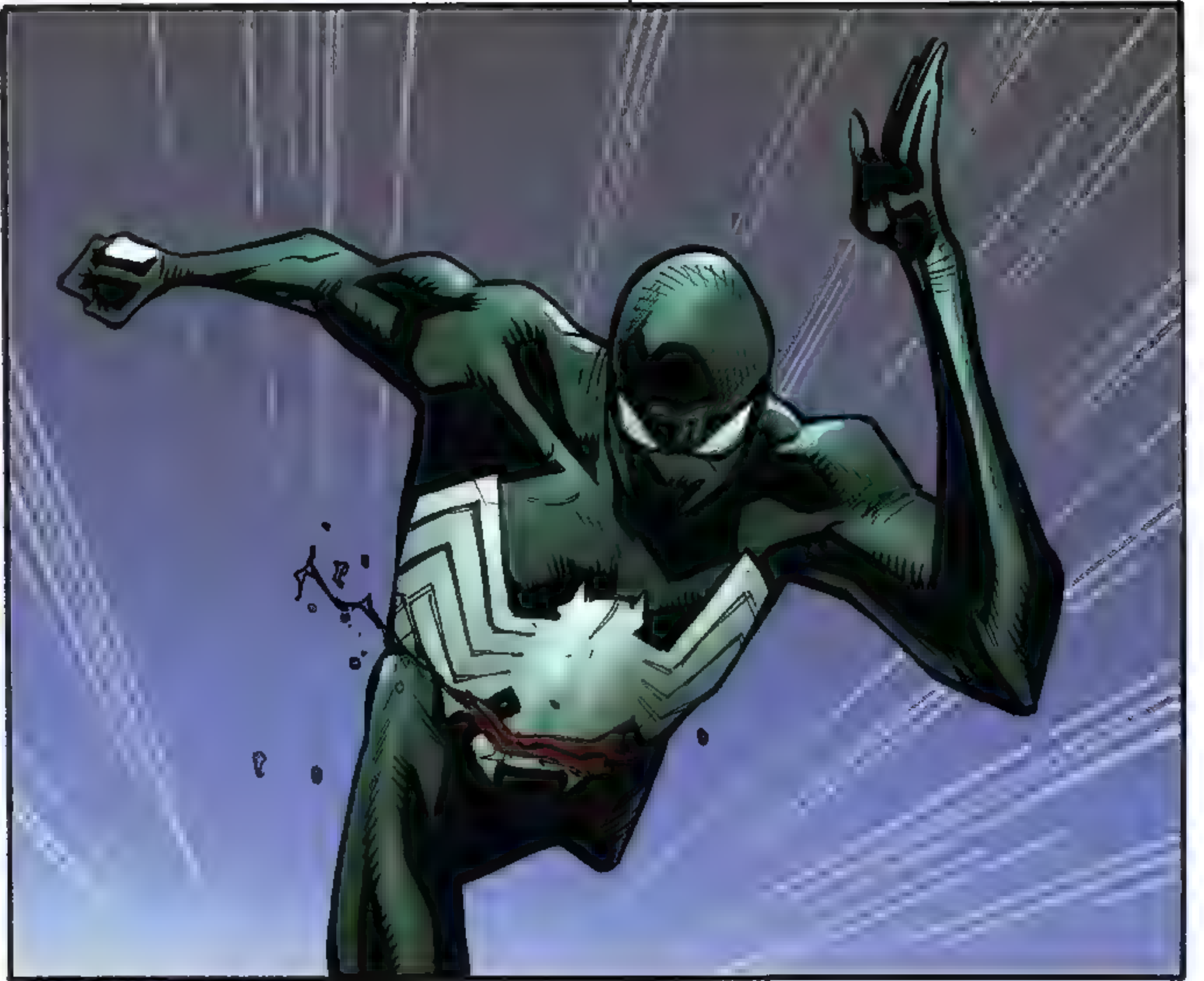




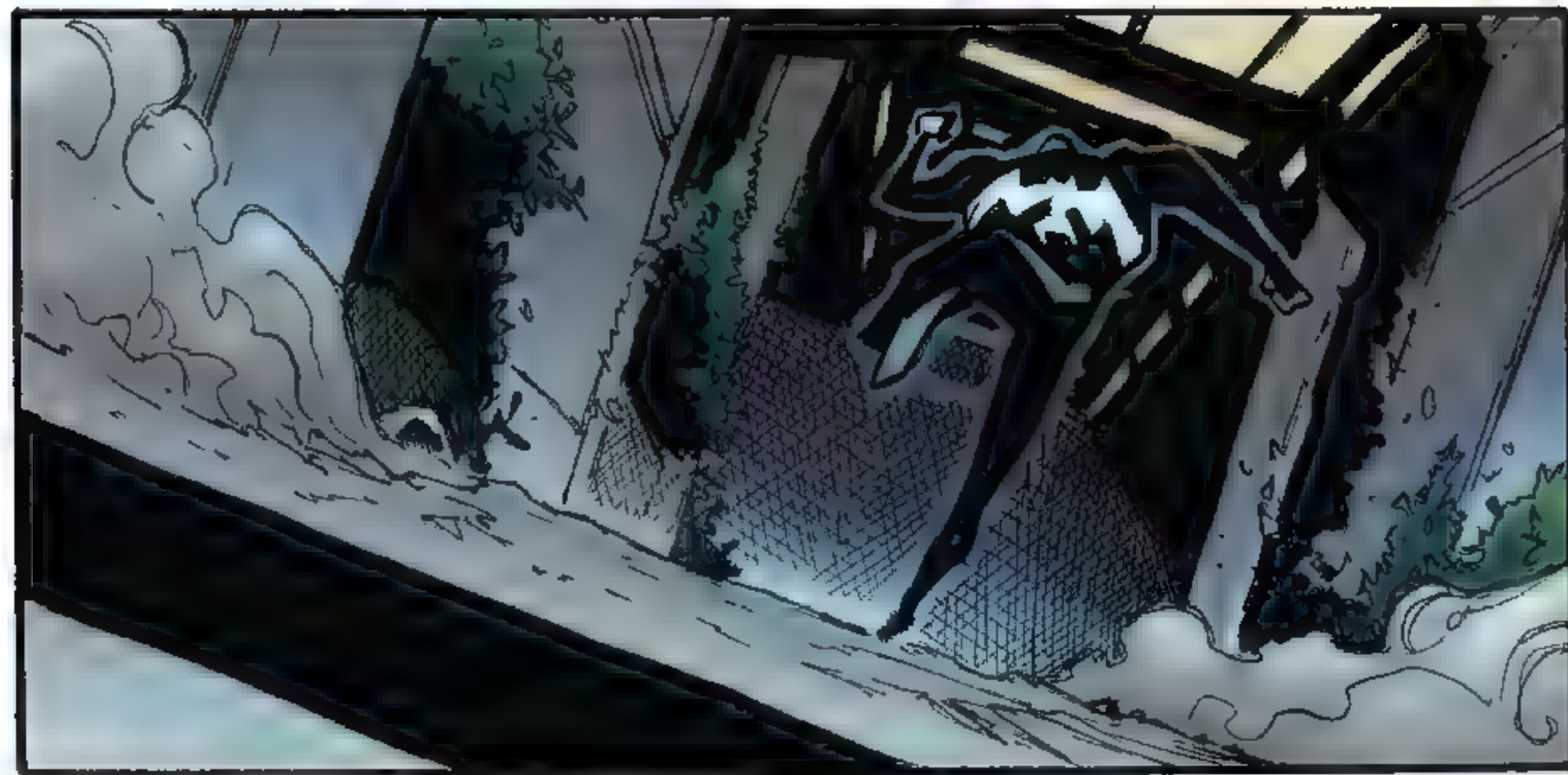




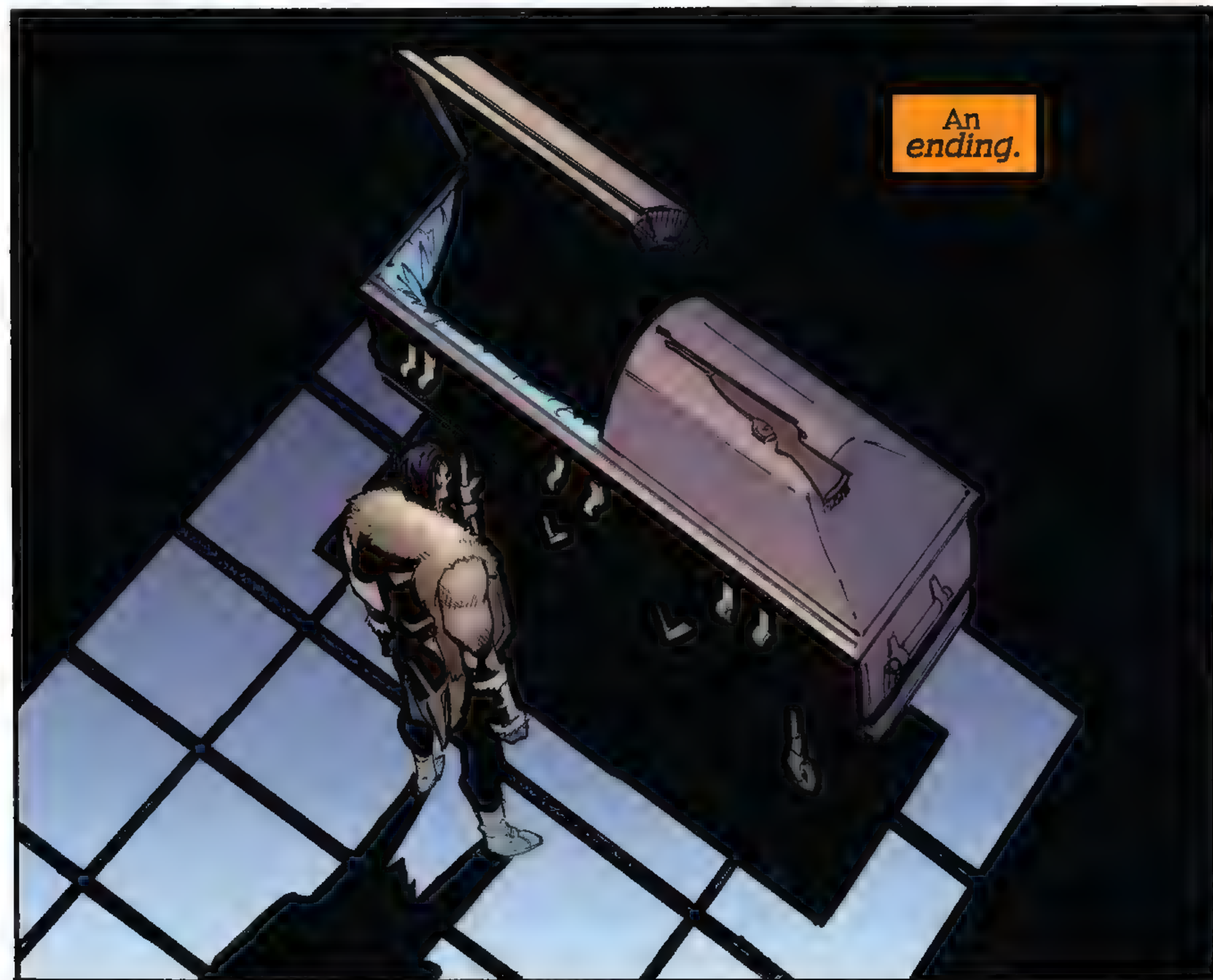
This is your gift to me, Spider.



But I must honor it alone.



Peace, calm, happiness.



An ending.



For me, that is.

SPIDER!

For you,
there will
always be
more battles.

You are the
eternal night.
The *demon*.

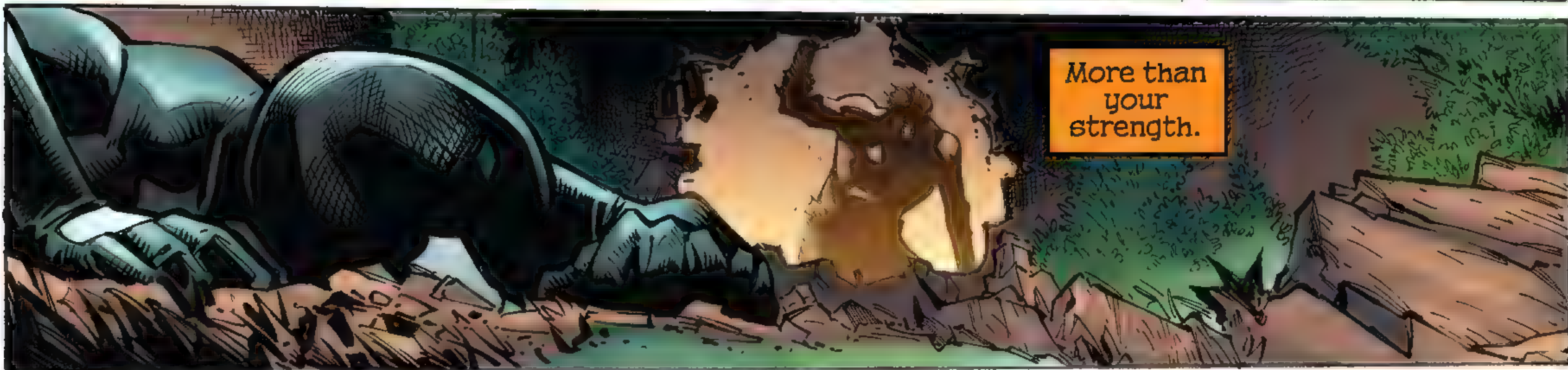
But behind the
mask, you are
also a man.

I always saw him
there, but he
seemed the lesser.
The *inferior*.

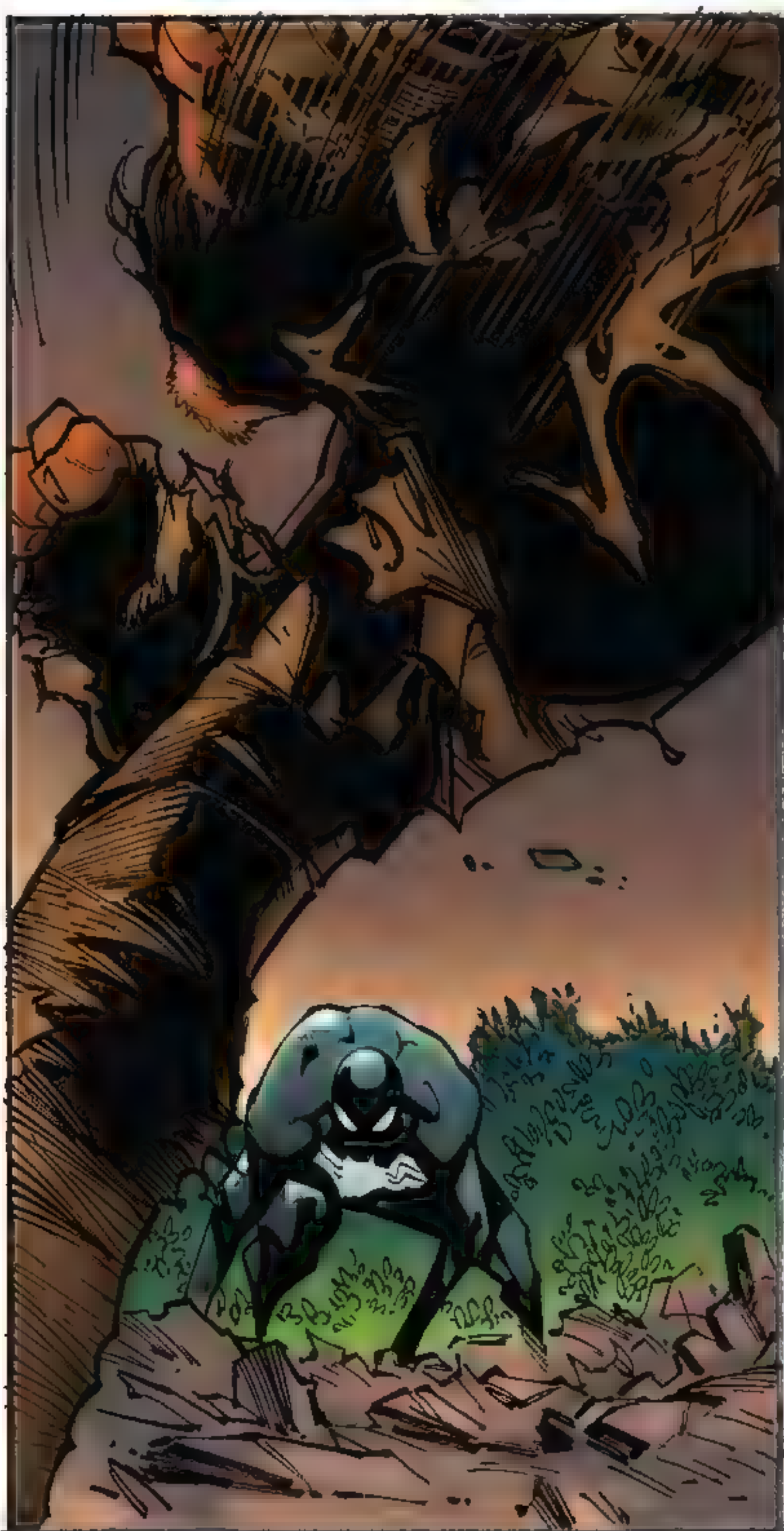
I
understand
now.



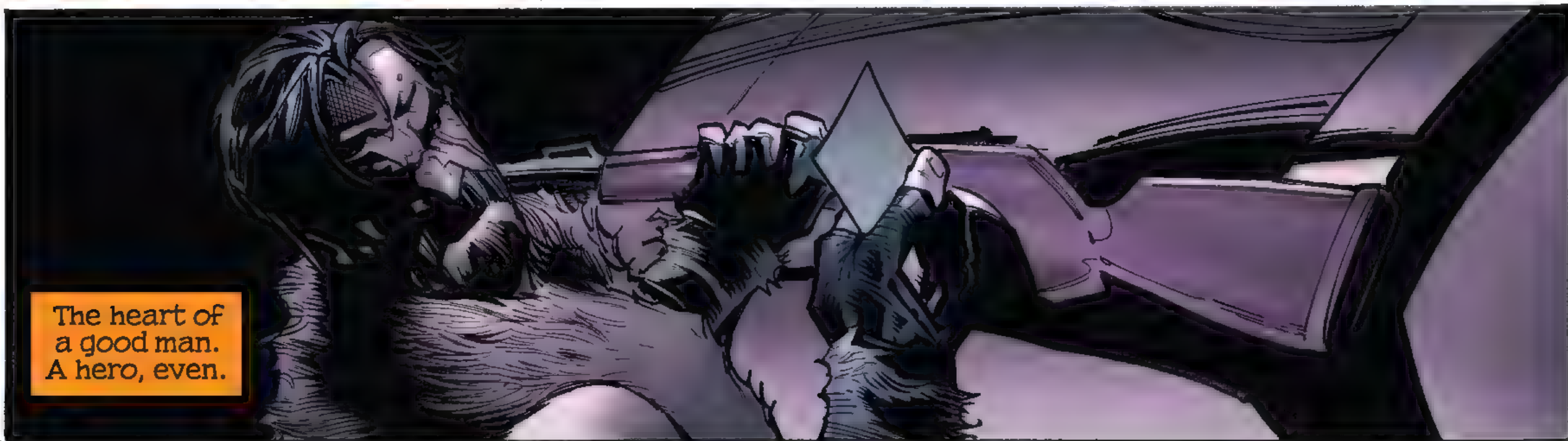
You are
more than
your power.



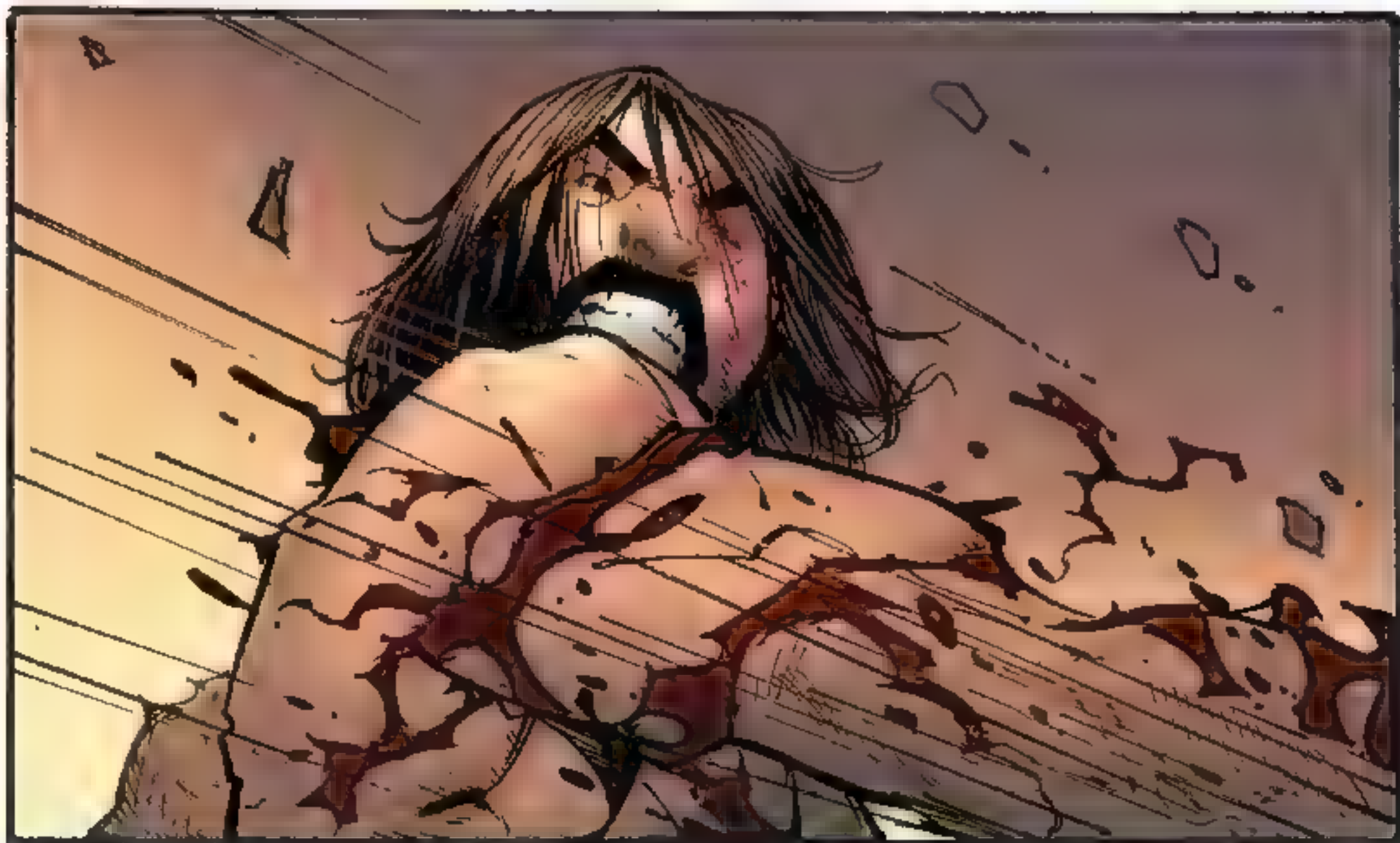
More than
your
strength.



It is the heart that
beats inside you
that makes you
worthy of the spider.



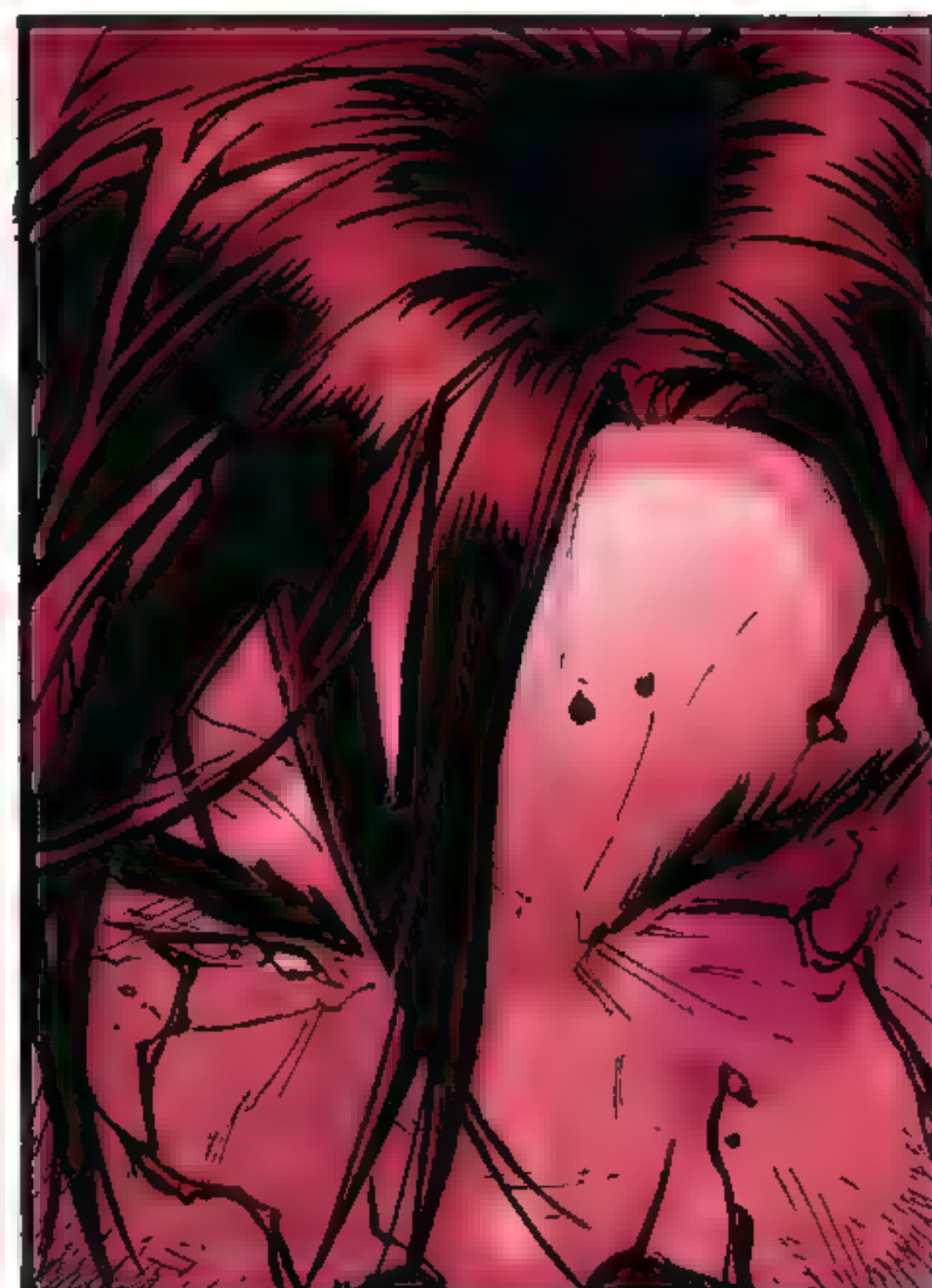
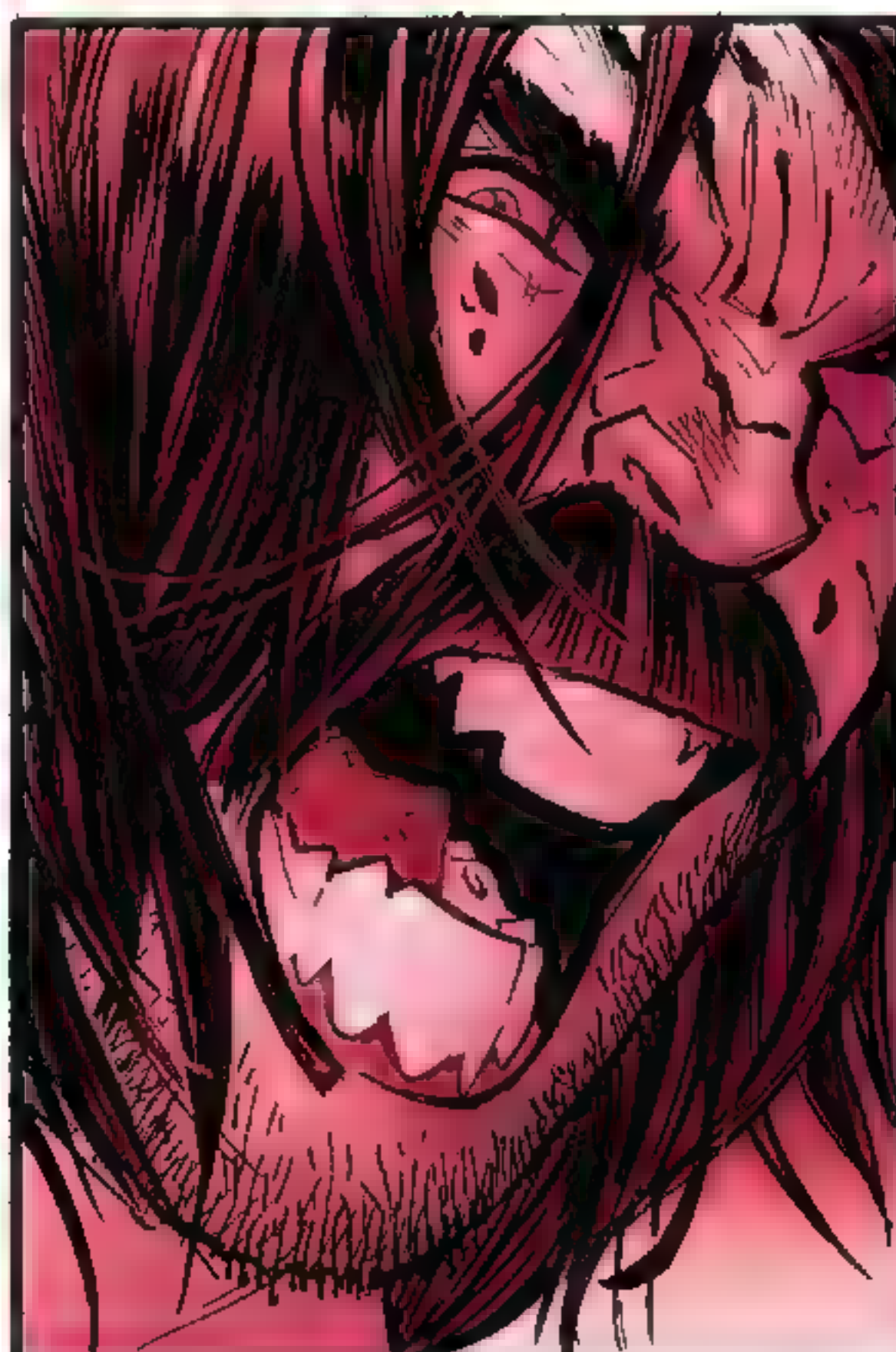
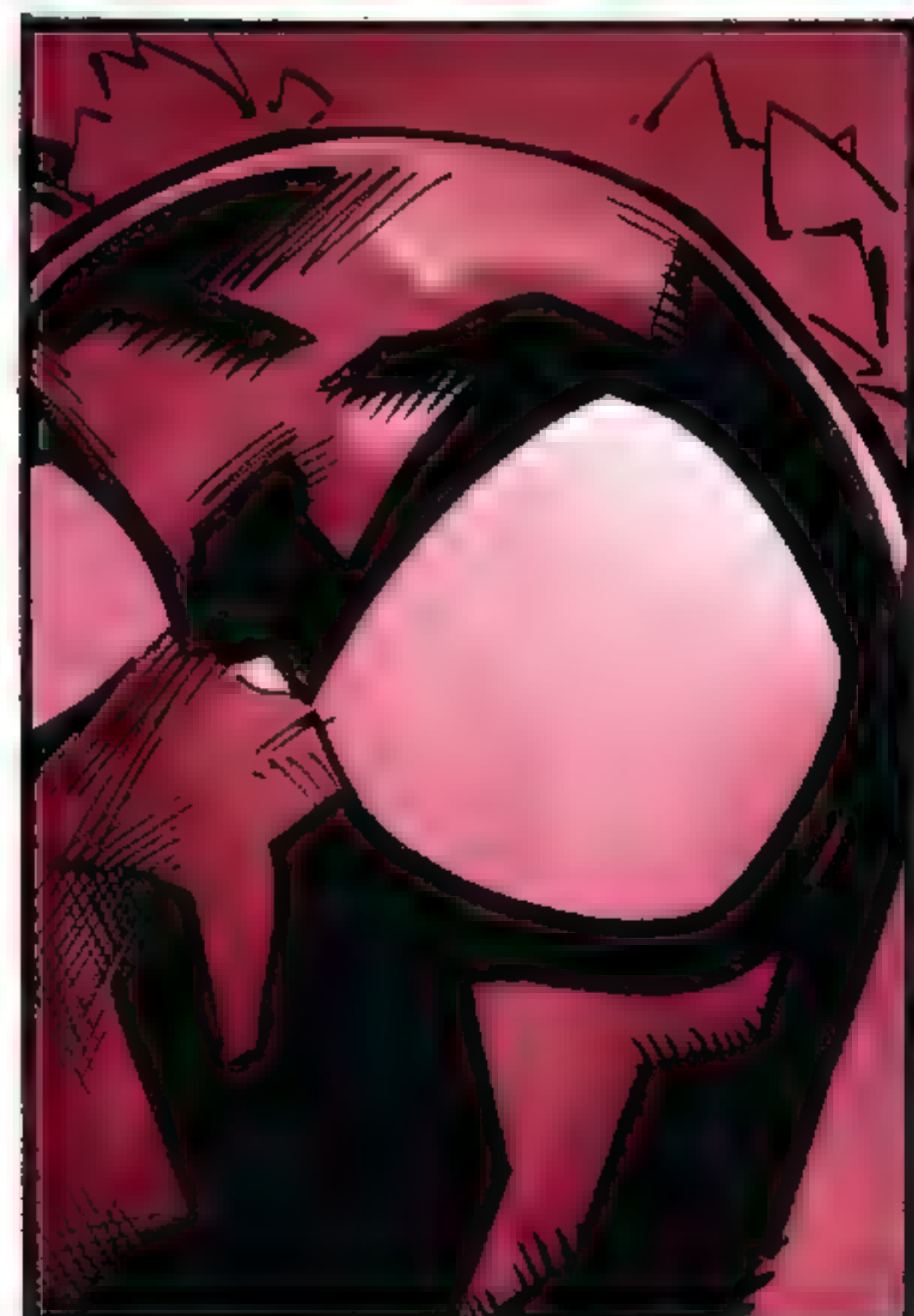
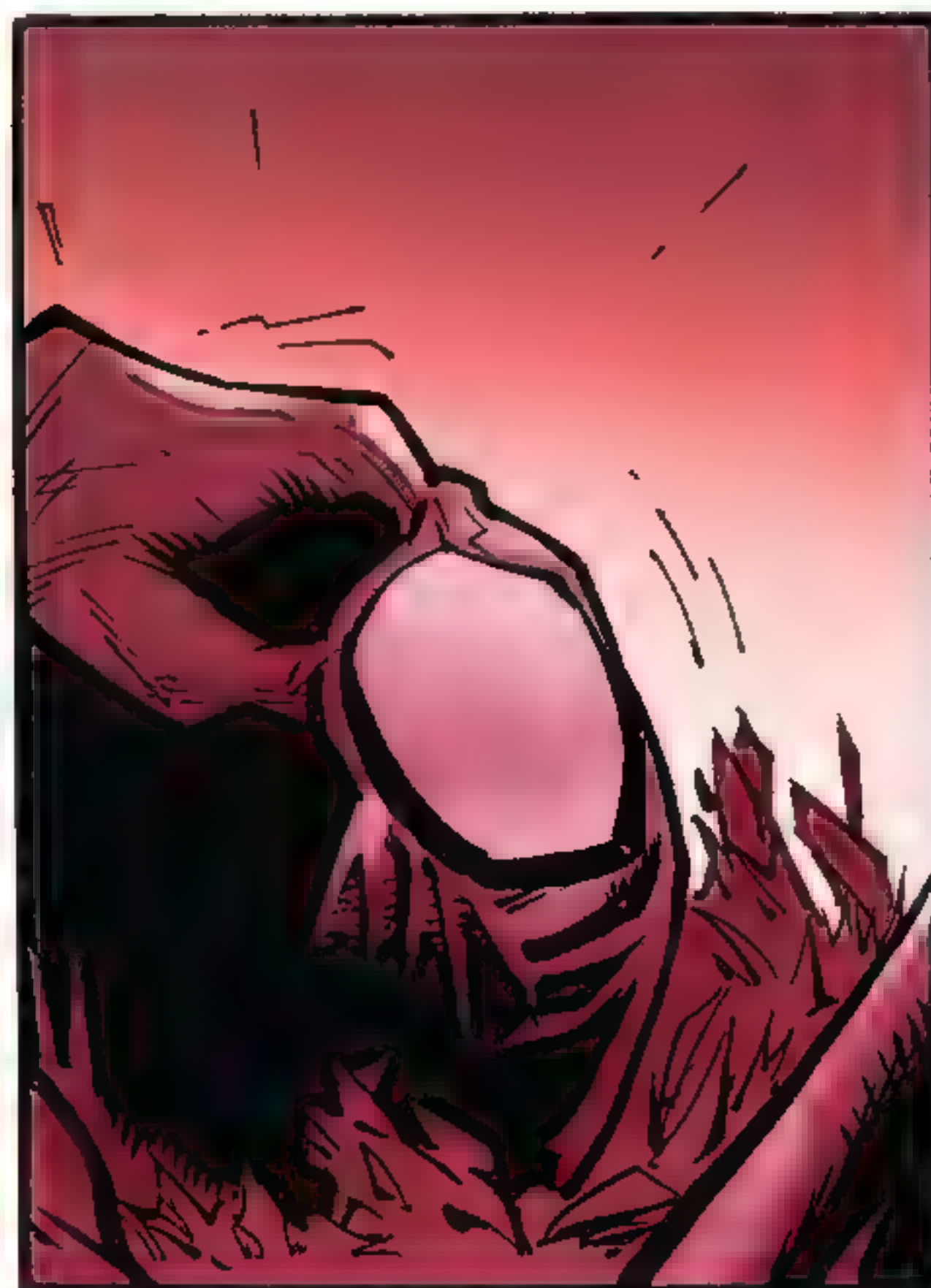
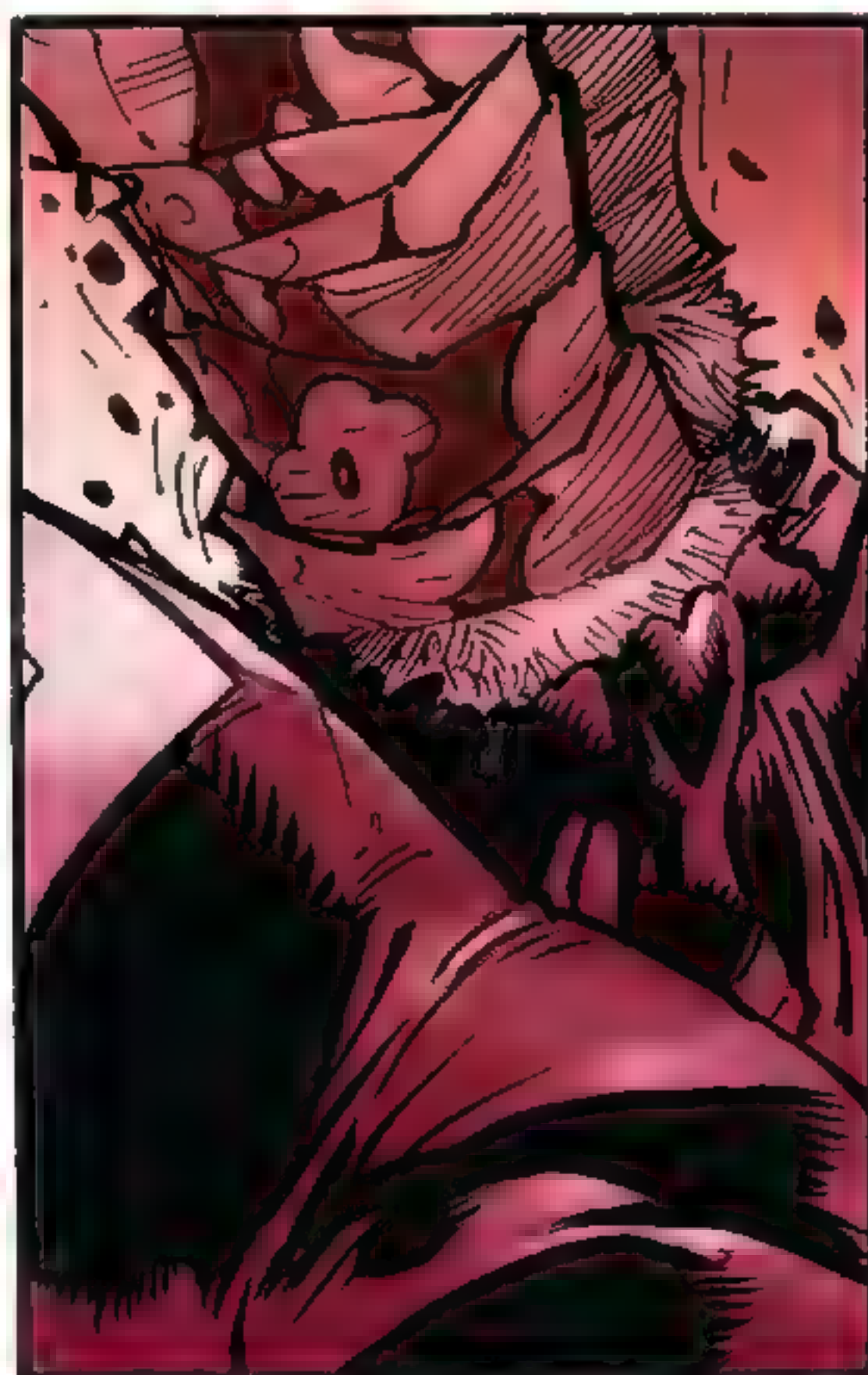
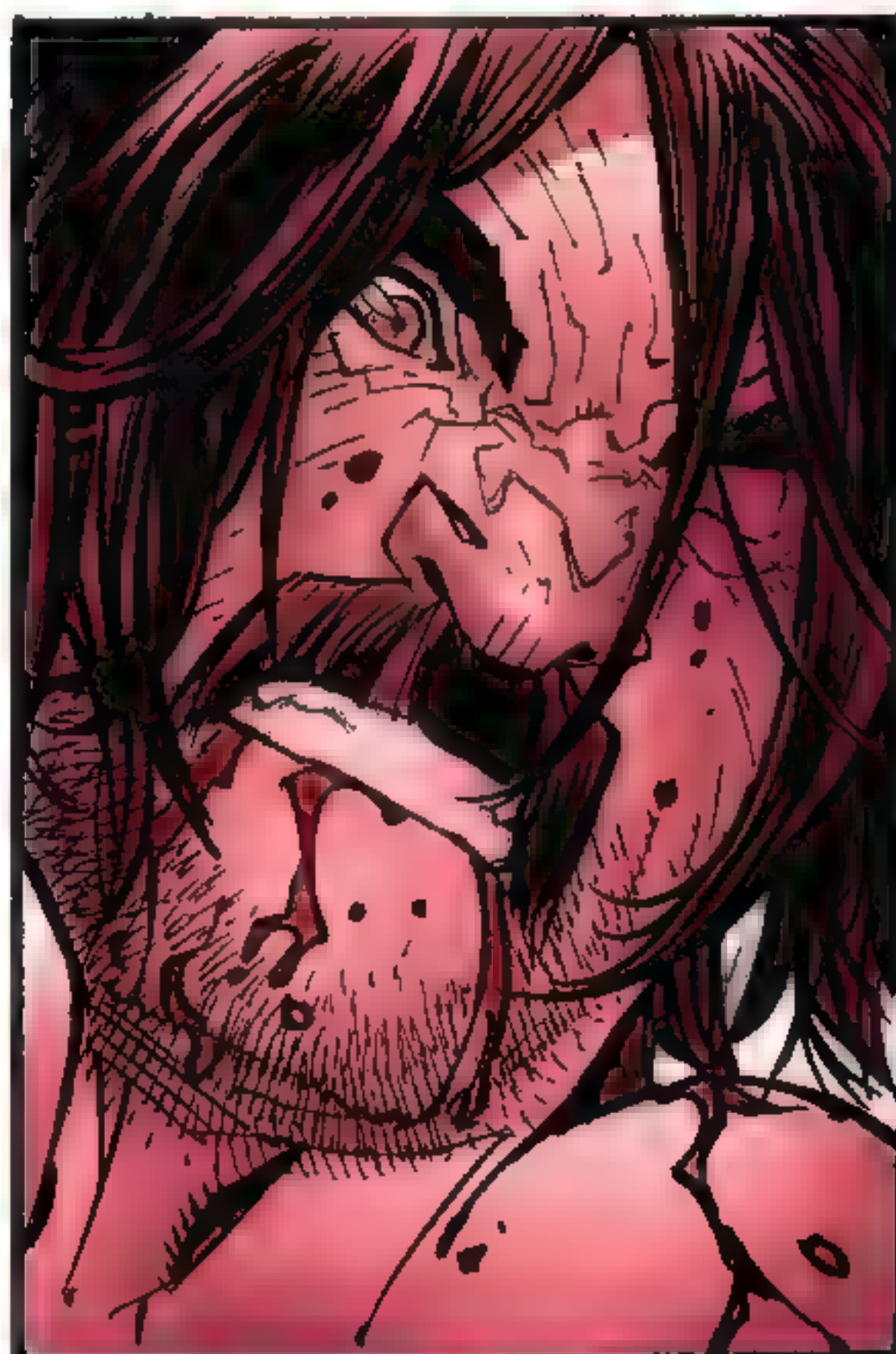
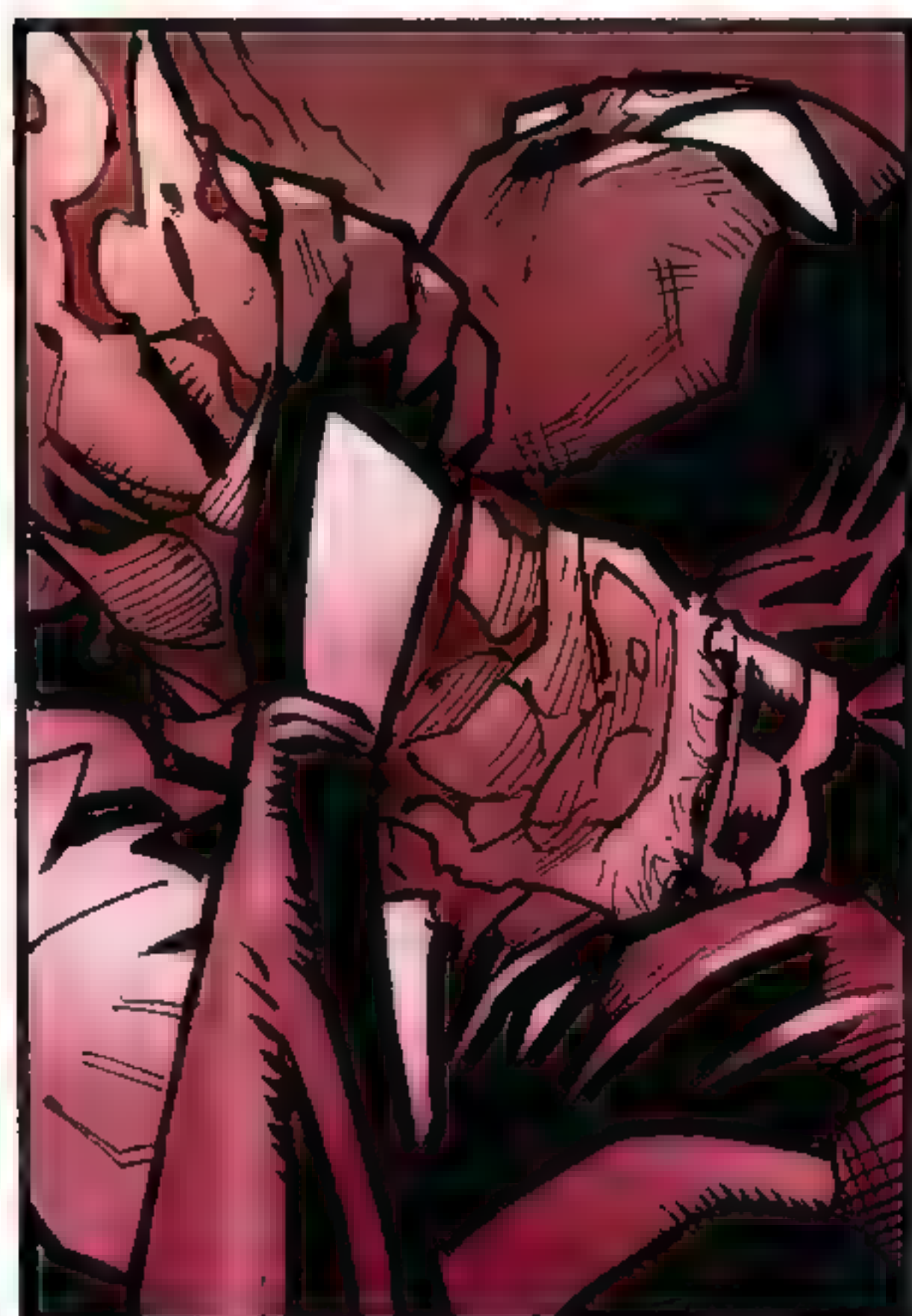
The heart of
a good man.
A hero, even.





You see,
what I said
was true.

All things
must end.

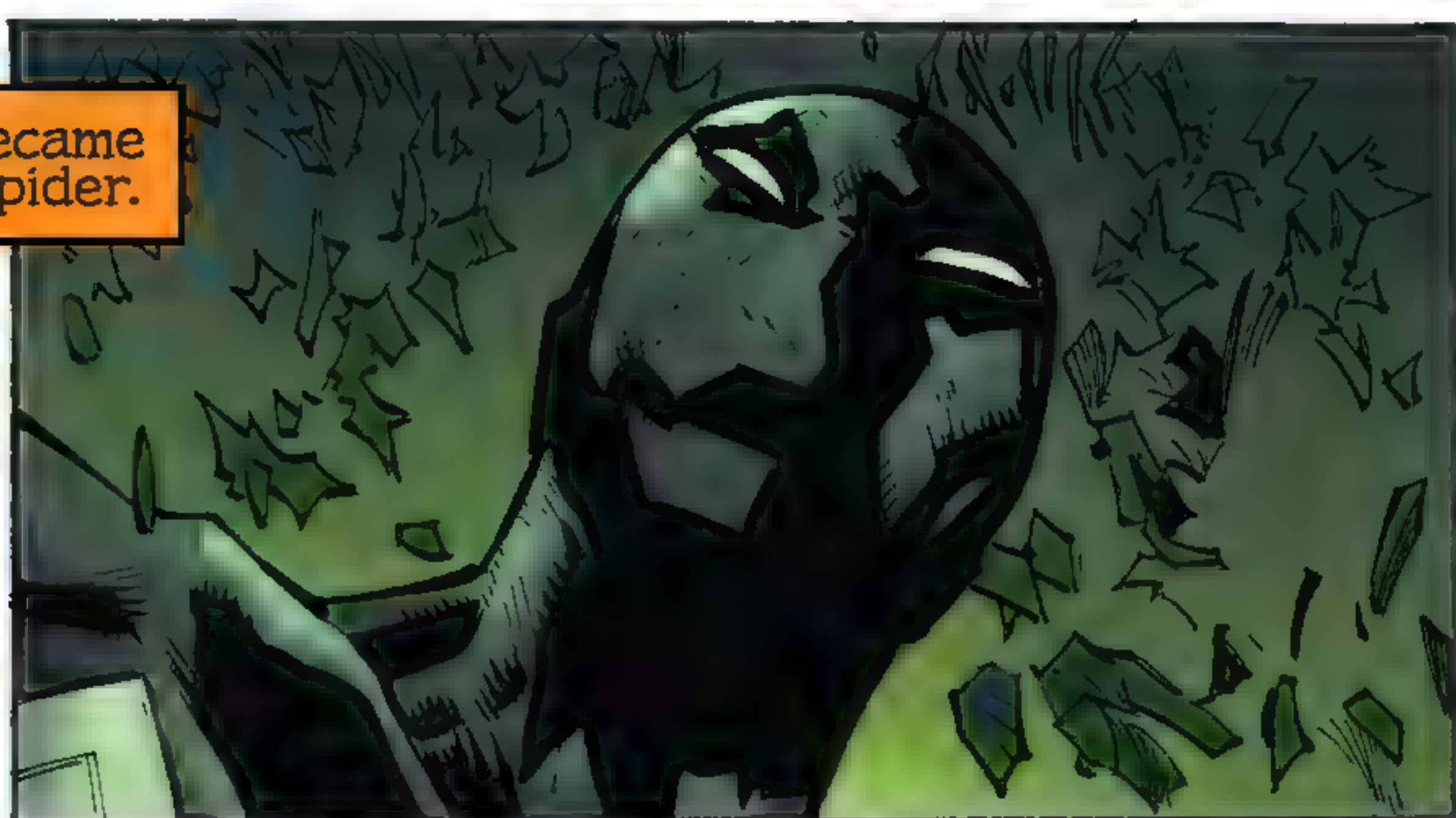


But the
curse said only
the spider
could kill me.

So once
again, like all
those years
before--



--I became
the spider.



This time
not just
in body--



--but
in spirit
as well.



Your mercy.
Your kindness.
Your nobility.



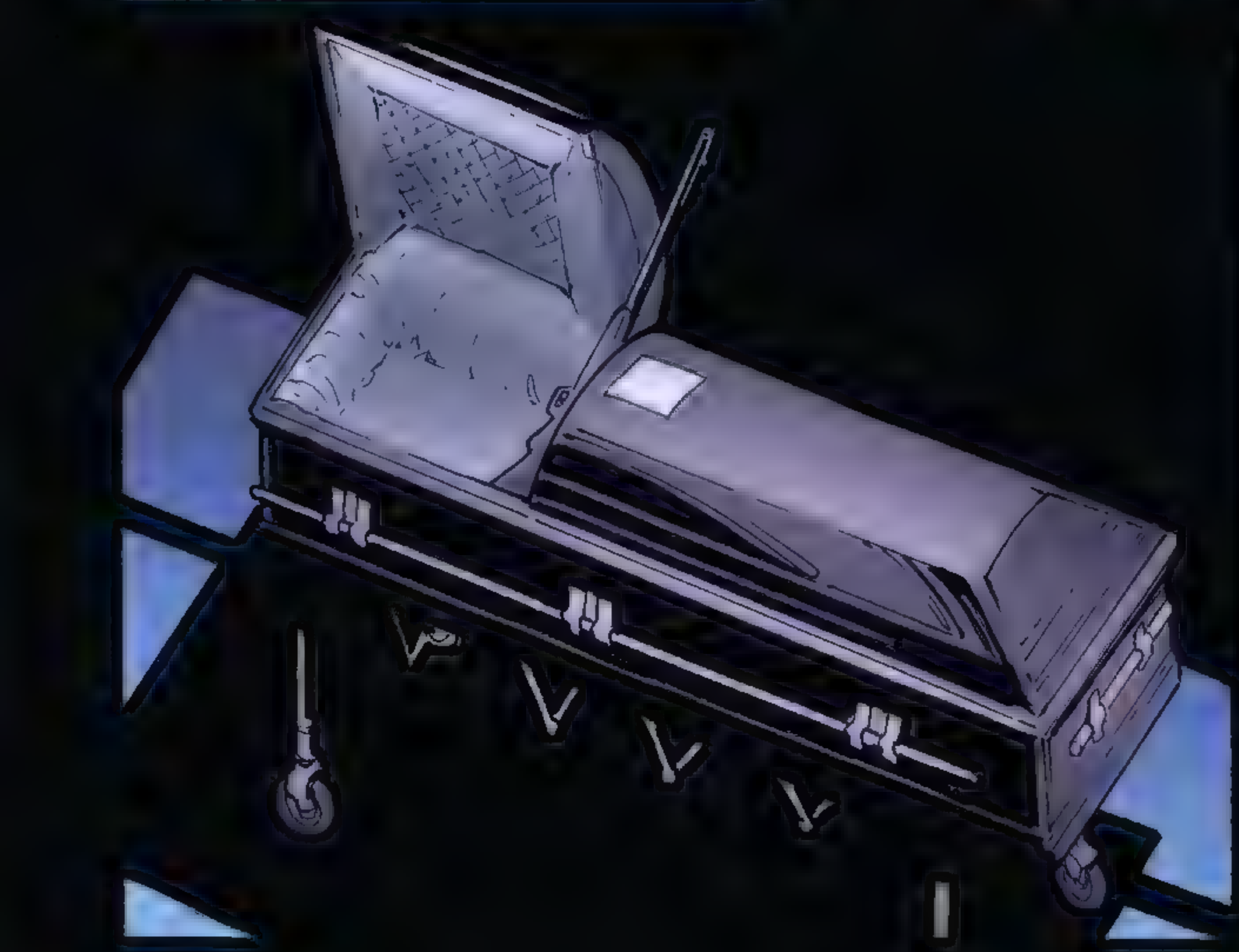
Your sacrifice.



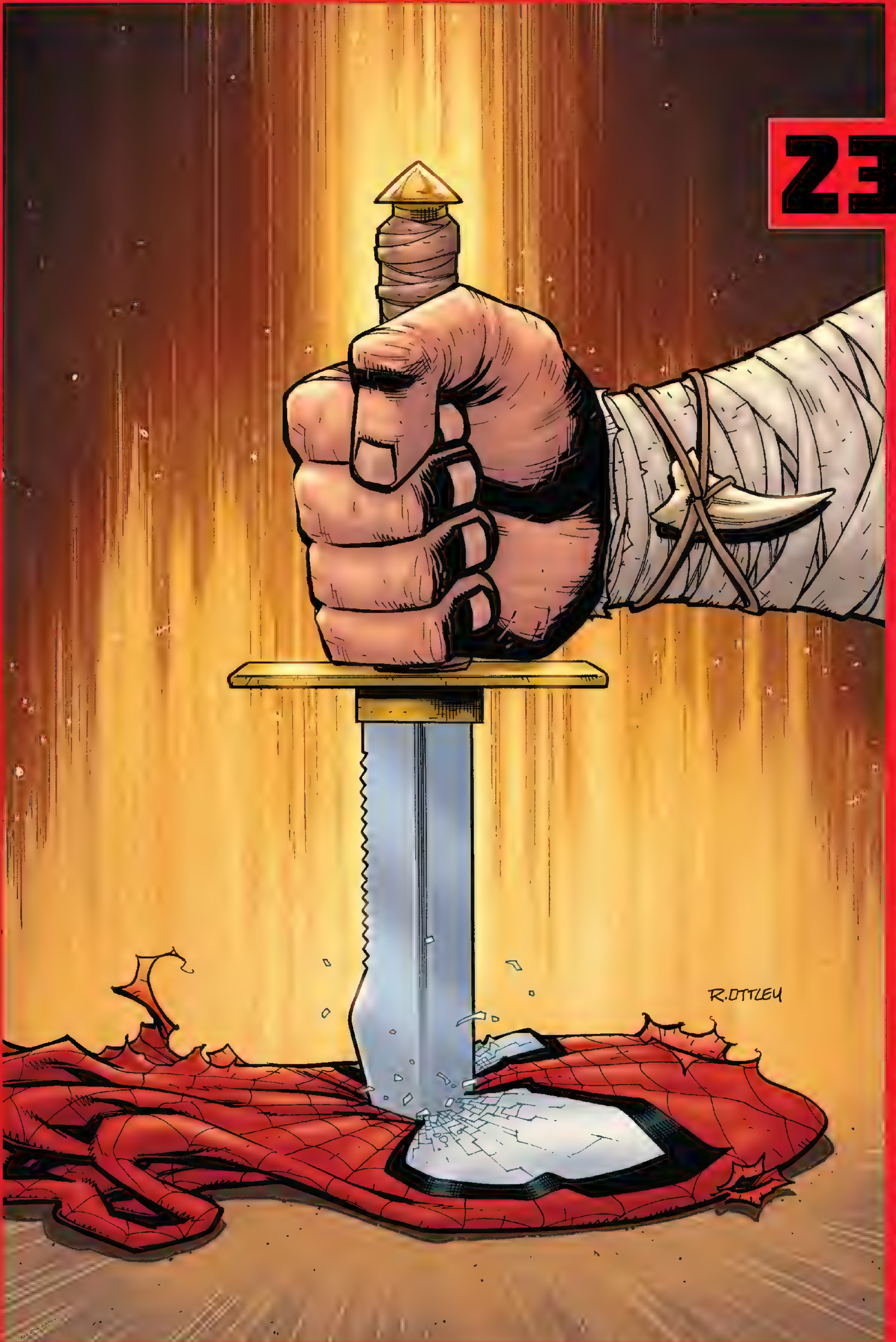
FATHER...

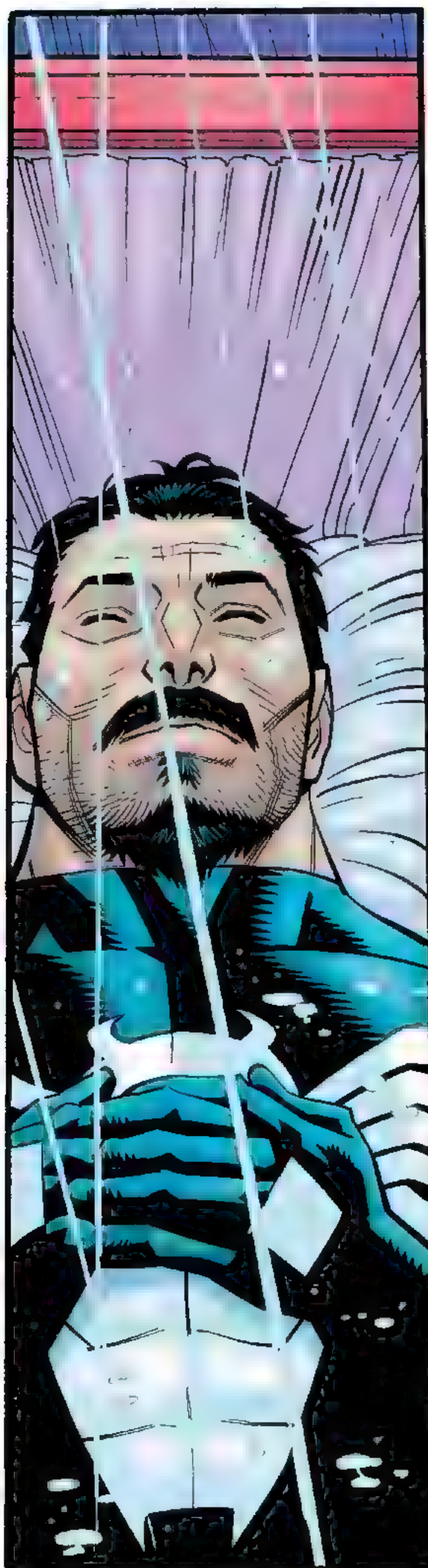
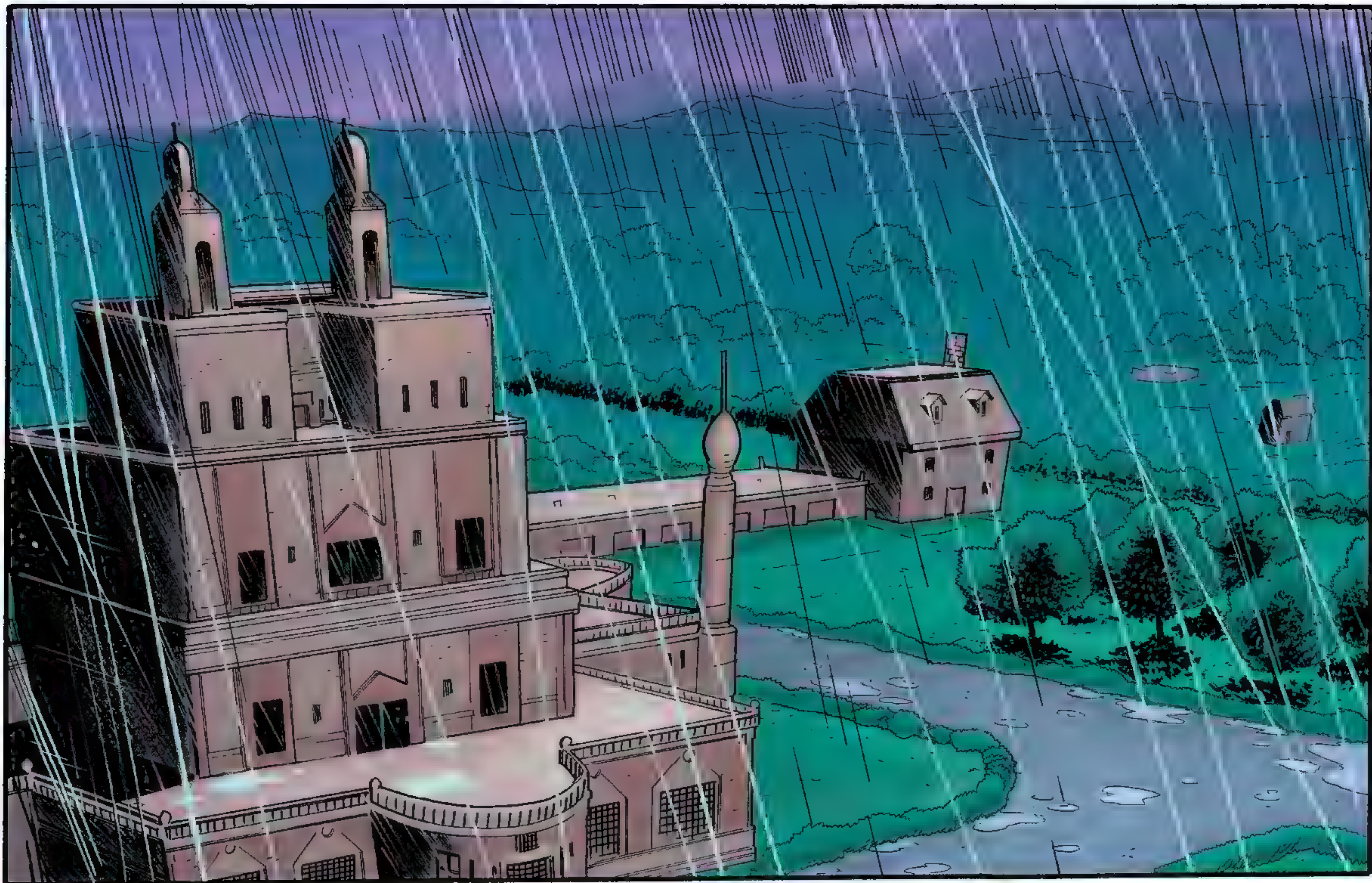


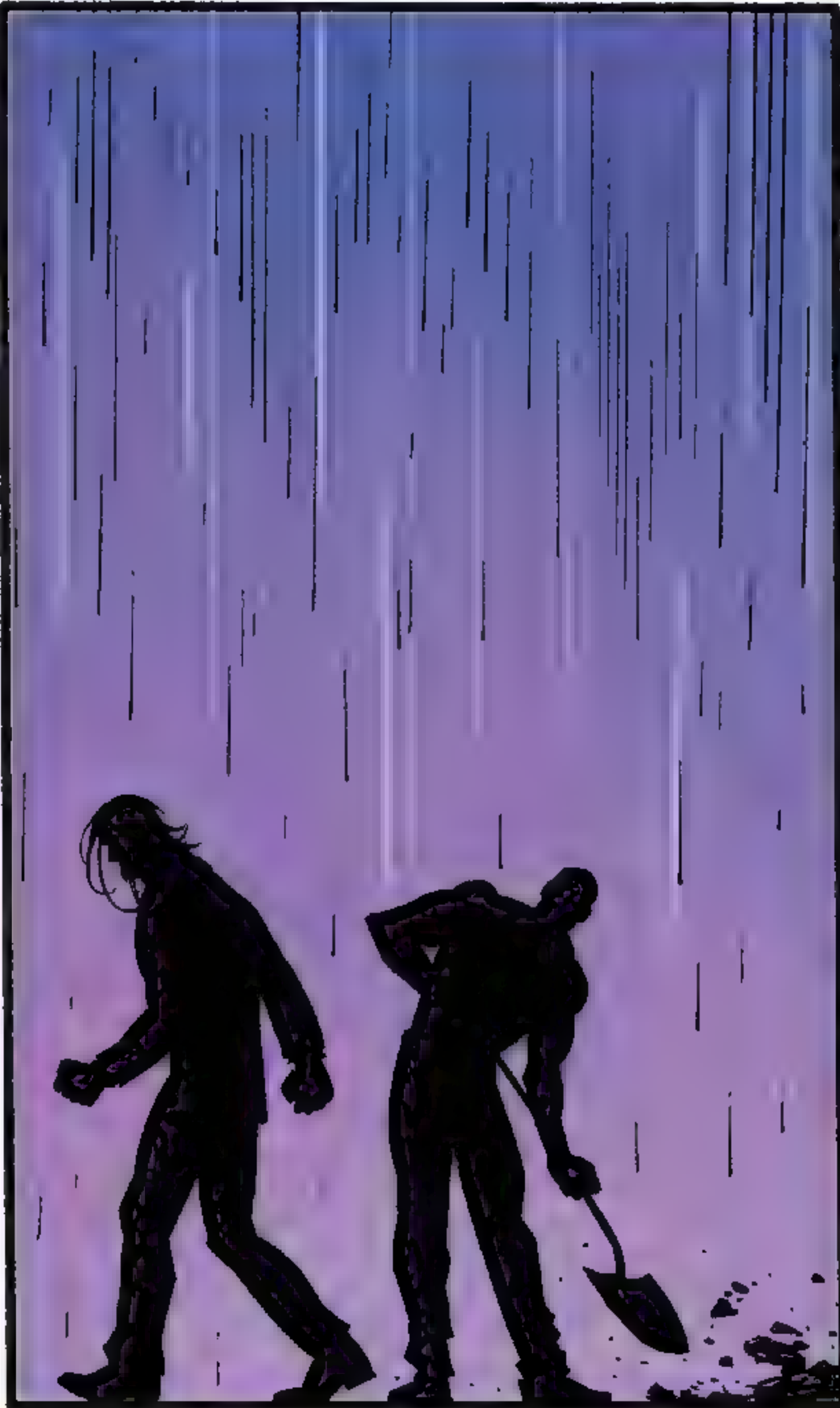
Nooooo!

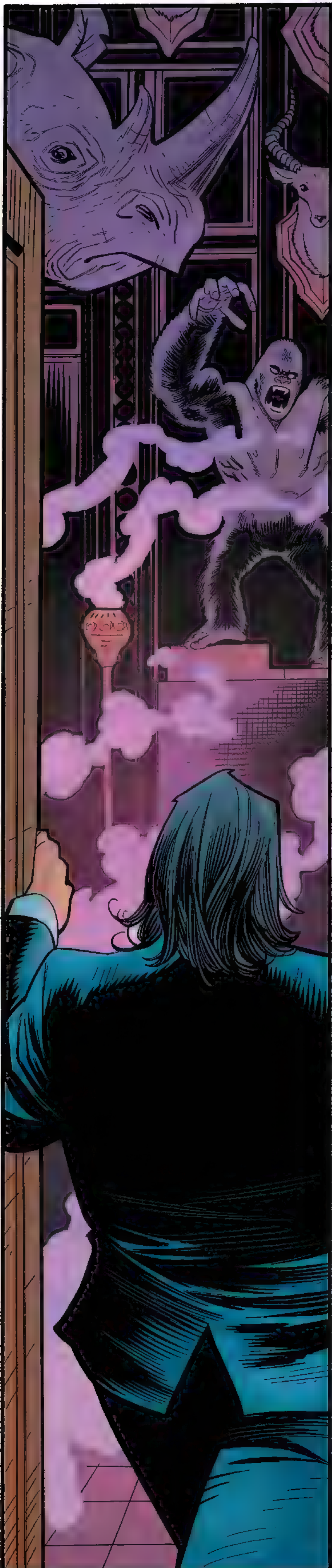


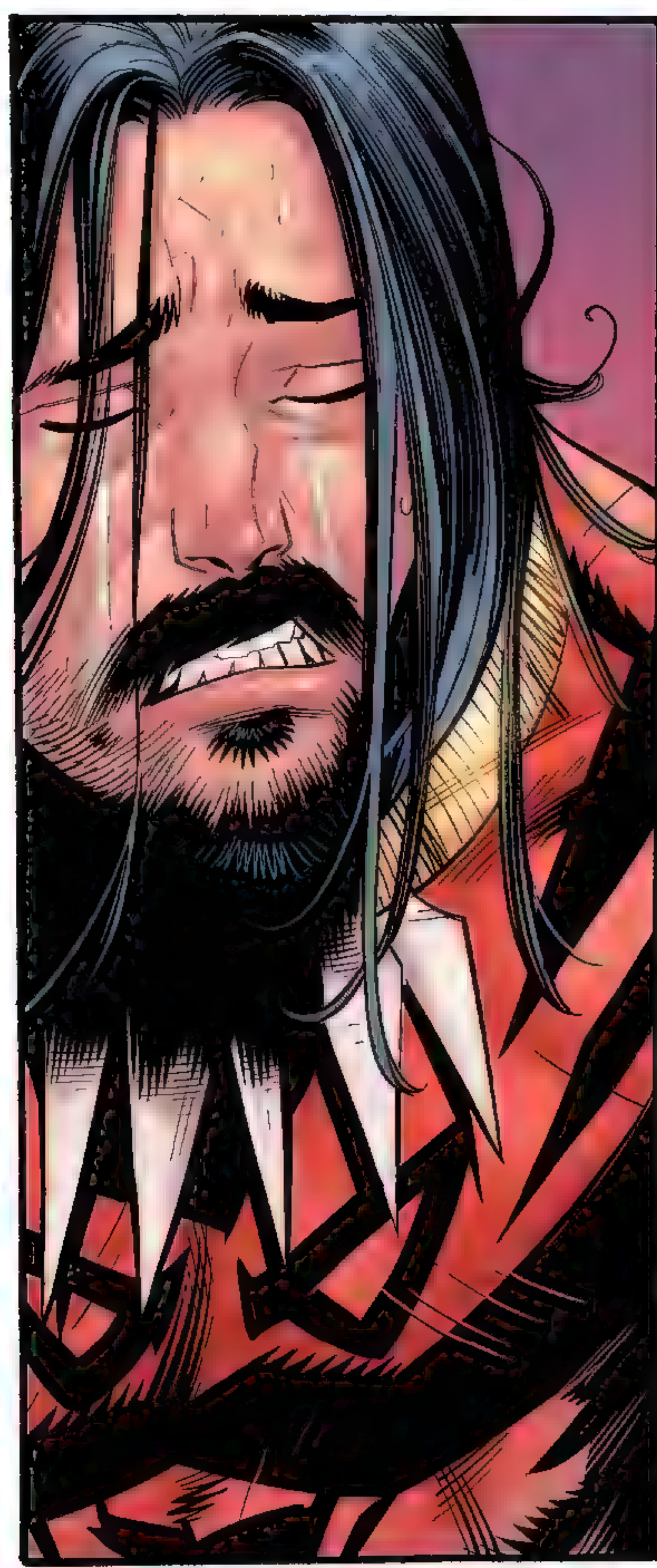














IT'S OVER.

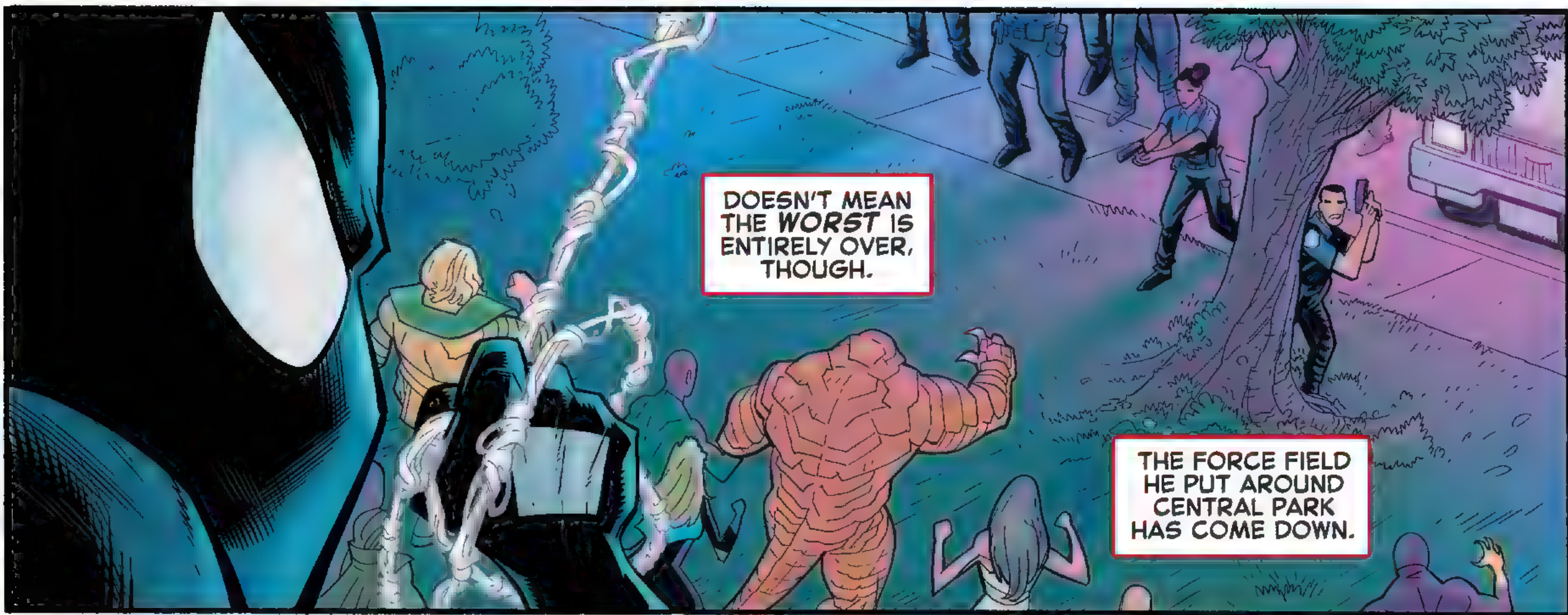
SOMEHOW, IT'S FINALLY OVER.

I FEEL LIKE DEATH. LIKE I'VE BEEN TO HELL AND BACK IN THE LAST TWELVE HOURS. BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE--



--I DON'T HEAR THE DRUMS IN MY HEAD ANYMORE.

WHEREVER KRAVEN IS--WHATEVER HE'S DONE, THAT FIGHT IS OVER. I CAN SENSE IT.



DOESN'T MEAN THE **WORST** IS ENTIRELY OVER, THOUGH.

THE FORCE FIELD HE PUT AROUND CENTRAL PARK HAS COME DOWN.



BUT THAT MEANS AN ARMY OF COSTUMED CRIMINALS HAS BEEN SET FREE IN THE MIDDLE OF MANHATTAN.

TOO MANY FOR ME, OR NEW YORK'S FINEST, TO HANDLE. LUCKILY--



--REINFORCEMENTS
ARE ON HAND.



AND TRUTH BE
TOLD, THEY CAN'T
GET HERE SOON
ENOUGH--



SPIDEY! **THERE**
YOU ARE! YOU OKAY?
YOU WERE TRAPPED IN
HERE AND WE DIDN'T
KNOW--

NOT NOW--
CAN'T TALK
NOW!

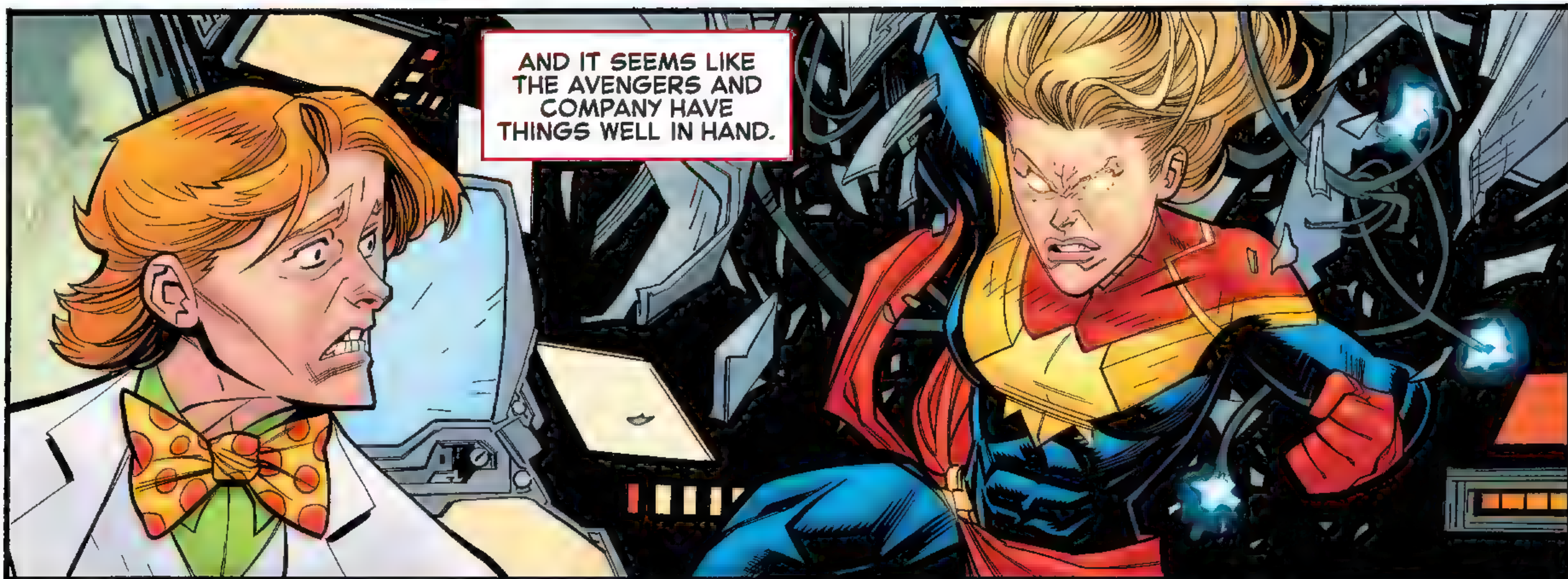


--SEEING AS I HAVE
OTHER THINGS TO
WORRY ABOUT.



YEAH, OKAY, DON'T
WORRY, WE GOT
TH-- OOF!

HATE TO RUN OFF LIKE
THIS, BUT MJ NEEDS
ME--I KNOW IT.



AND IT SEEMS LIKE
THE AVENGERS AND
COMPANY HAVE
THINGS WELL IN HAND.



WHAT...
WHAT JUST
HAPPENED?

OH MY
GOD--

ARE
YOU KIDDIN'
ME? *THAT'S*
IT? I WANNA
REFUND--



A
REFUND?!
BOB'S
DEAD...

THEN HE
SHOULD GET
A REFUND,
TOO!

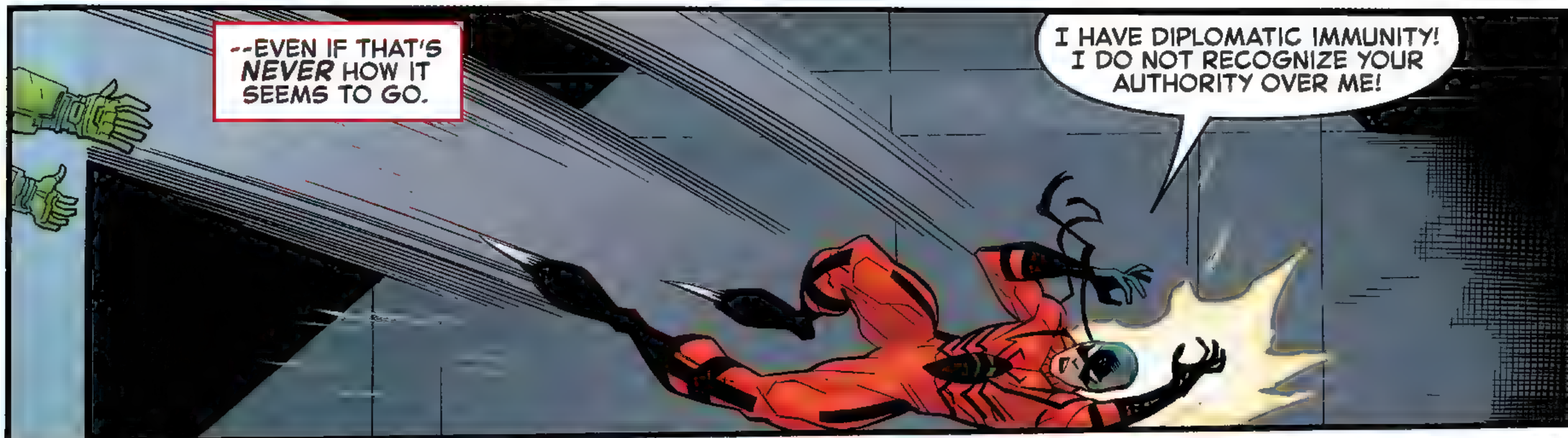
GOOD
MORNING,
LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN.



IT'S PAST
TIME WE HAD
A CONVERSATION
ABOUT THIS
STATE'S GAMING
LAWS.



SO YEAH, BAD
GUYS OF ALL
SHAPES AND SIZES
GETTING WHAT
THEY DESERVE.
AND HOPEFULLY
THAT *STICKS*
THIS TIME--

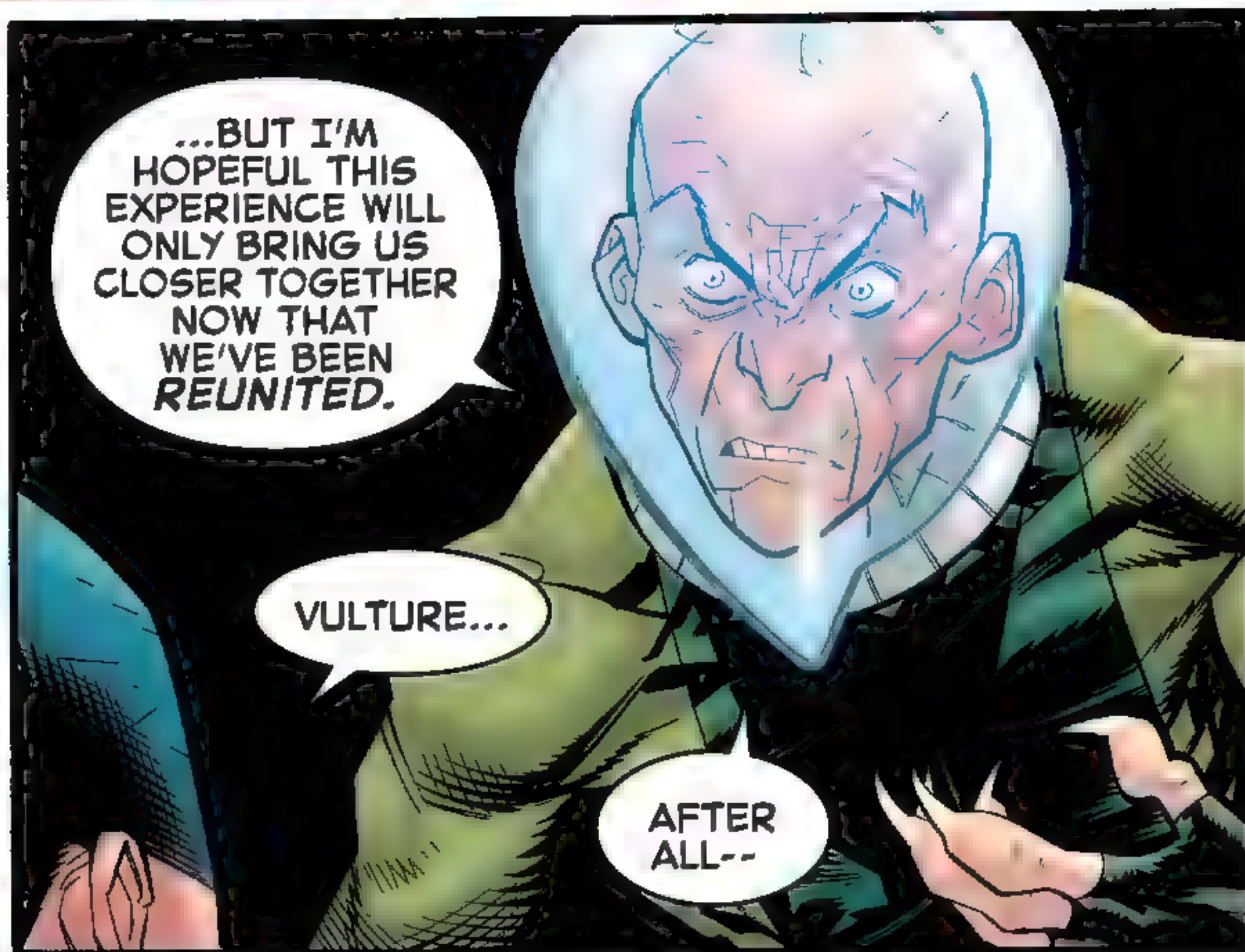


--EVEN IF THAT'S
NEVER HOW IT
SEEMS TO GO.

I HAVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY!
I DO NOT RECOGNIZE YOUR
AUTHORITY OVER ME!



PFFT--DON'T
WASTE YOUR TIME
WITH THOSE CRETINS,
TARANTULA. IT'S
UNFORTUNATE...



...BUT I'M
HOPEFUL THIS
EXPERIENCE WILL
ONLY BRING US
CLOSER TOGETHER
NOW THAT
WE'VE BEEN
REUNITED.

VULTURE...

AFTER
ALL--



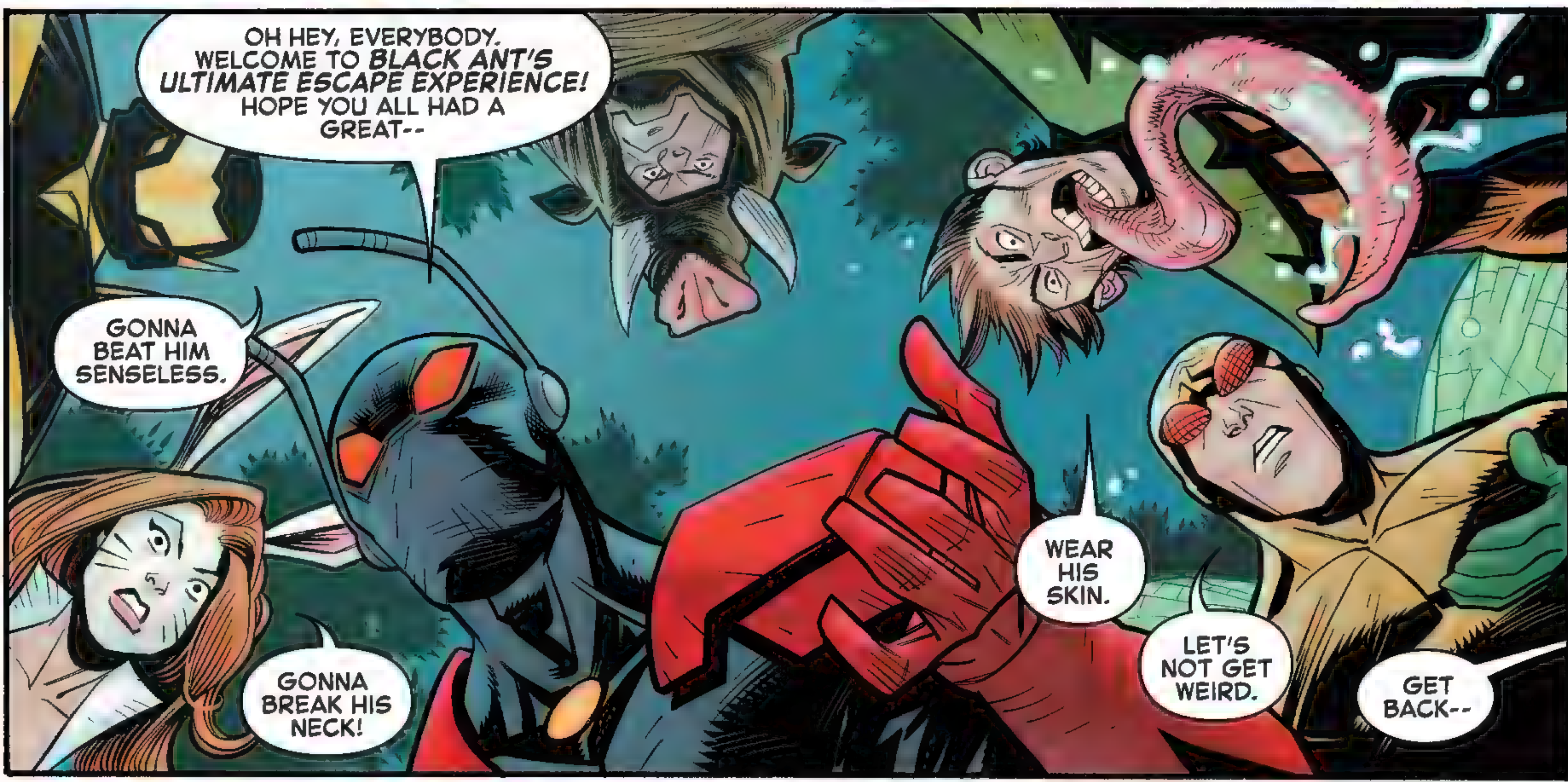
--THE
SAVAGE SIX
DID HAVE A
NICE RING TO
IT, DIDN'T
IT?



ALL OF YOU--LOOK WHO I FOUND! HIDING IN THE BUSHES LIKE A MISCREANT--

THE BLACK ANT!

LOUSY JERK THAT STUCK US IN HERE!



OH HEY, EVERYBODY. WELCOME TO BLACK ANT'S ULTIMATE ESCAPE EXPERIENCE! HOPE YOU ALL HAD A GREAT--

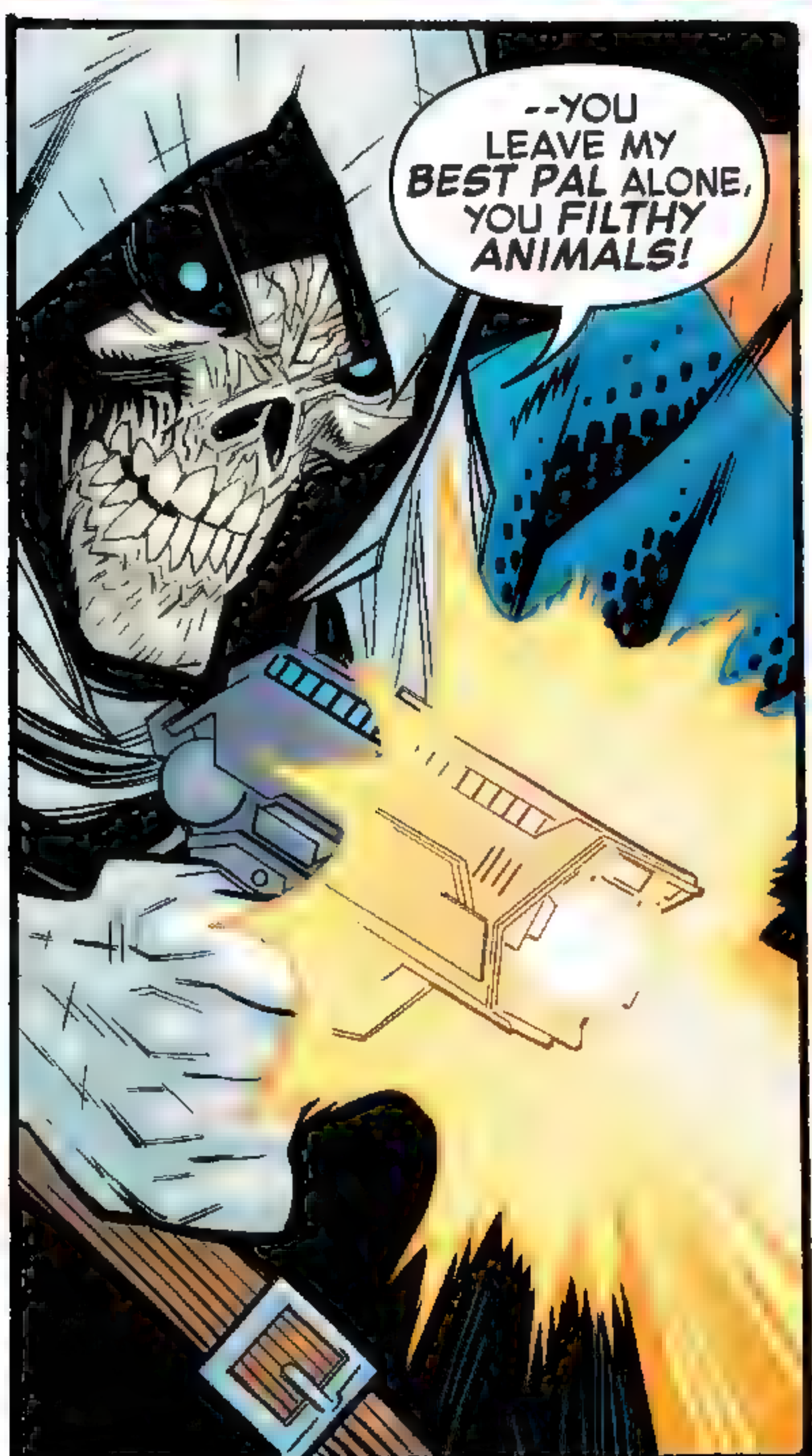
GONNA BEAT HIM SENSELESS.

GONNA BREAK HIS NECK!

WEAR HIS SKIN.

LET'S NOT GET WEIRD.

GET BACK--



--YOU LEAVE MY BEST PAL ALONE, YOU FILTHY ANIMALS!



TASKY! YOU CAME BACK FOR ME! AFTER BETRAYING ME!

HAD TO, LITTLE BUDDY! I KNOW YOU WOULD'VE DONE THE SAME FOR ME!



WAIT--DO YOU MEAN THE BETRAYAL PART OR THE RESCUE PART?

YEAH!

BECAUSE THAT'S ALL WE'RE LOOKING FOR, ISN'T IT? A HAPPY ENDING...



A LITTLE LIGHT AT
THE END OF THE
SEWER TUNNEL.



IN THE MIDST OF
ALL THIS PAIN AND
HATE AND SUFFERING,
AT LEAST THERE'S
THIS.



IT'S ENOUGH TO
WARM EVEN THE
COLDEST HEART.



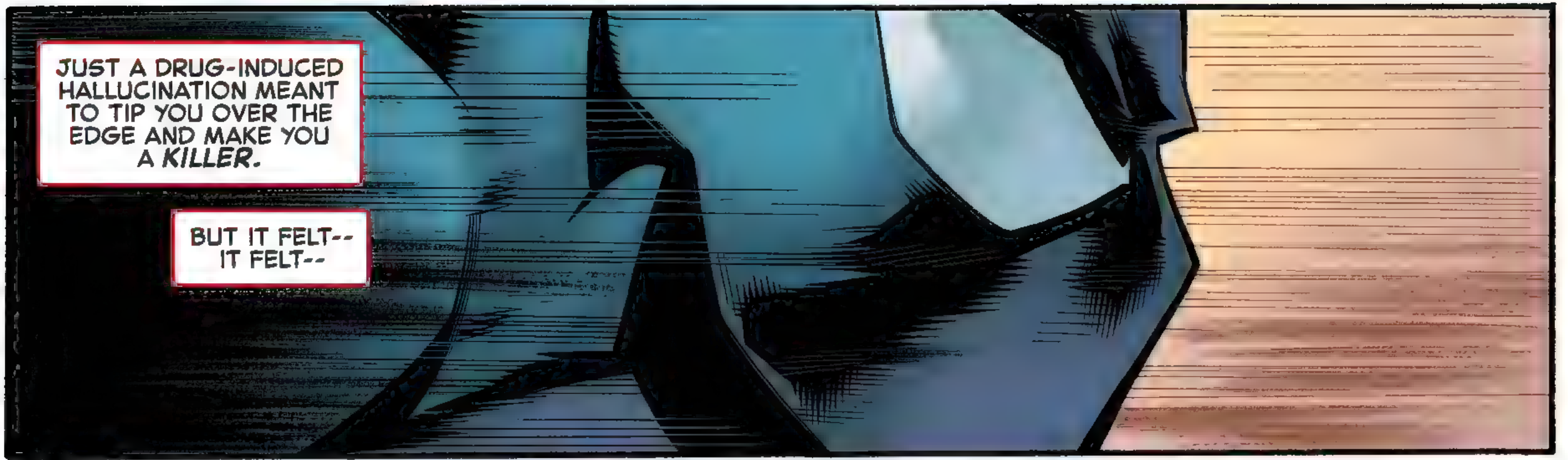
BUT EVEN IN THE
MOMENTS OF RELIEF,
THERE'S A REMINDER--



--OF THE
COST.



OF WHAT
EVIL IS STILL
LURKING OUT
THERE--



JUST A DRUG-INDUCED
HALLUCINATION MEANT
TO TIP YOU OVER THE
EDGE AND MAKE YOU
A KILLER.

BUT IT FELT--
IT FELT--

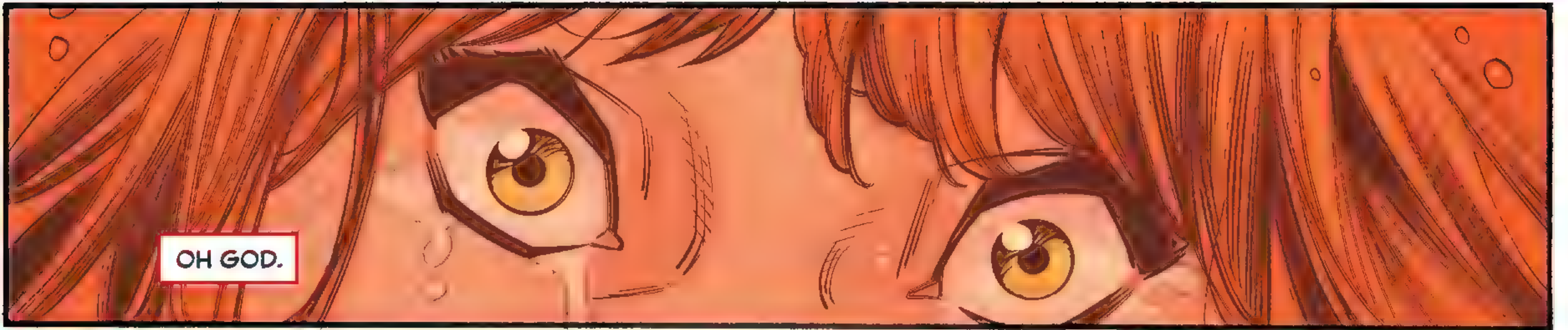


REAL. AND
NOW THAT
I'M HERE, I
KNOW--



--IT WASN'T
ALL A LIE.

MJ'S APARTMENT--
THE WINDOW!
IT'S JUST LIKE--



OH GOD.



I'M STILL
DREAMING,
AREN'T I?

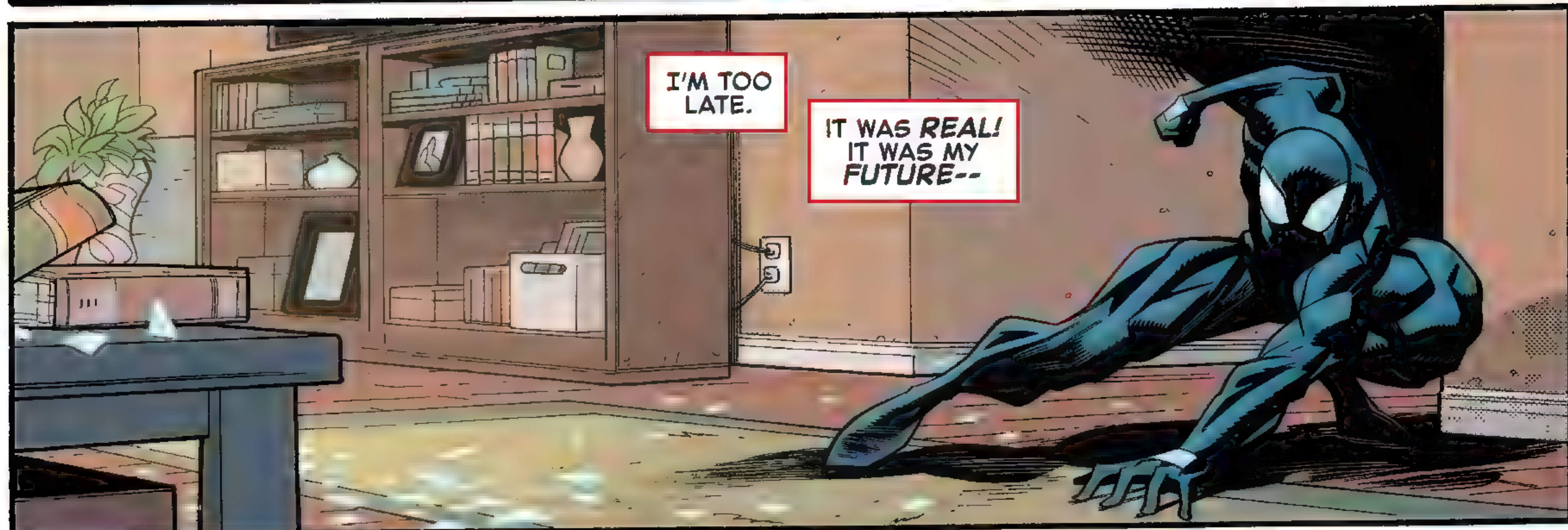
I HAVE
TO BE.



THIS CAN'T
BE REAL--



MJ!



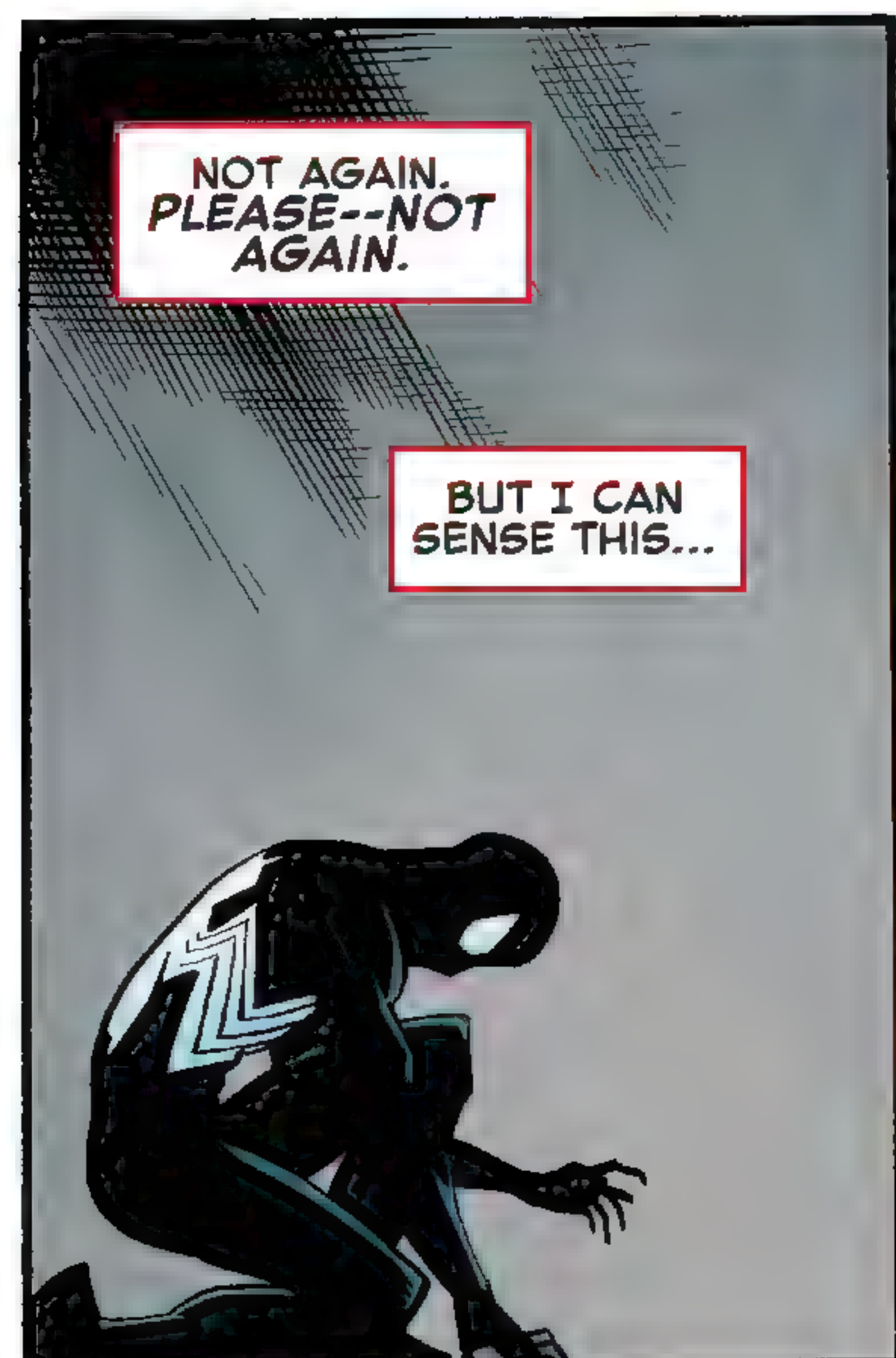
I'M TOO LATE.

**IT WAS REAL!
IT WAS MY FUTURE--**



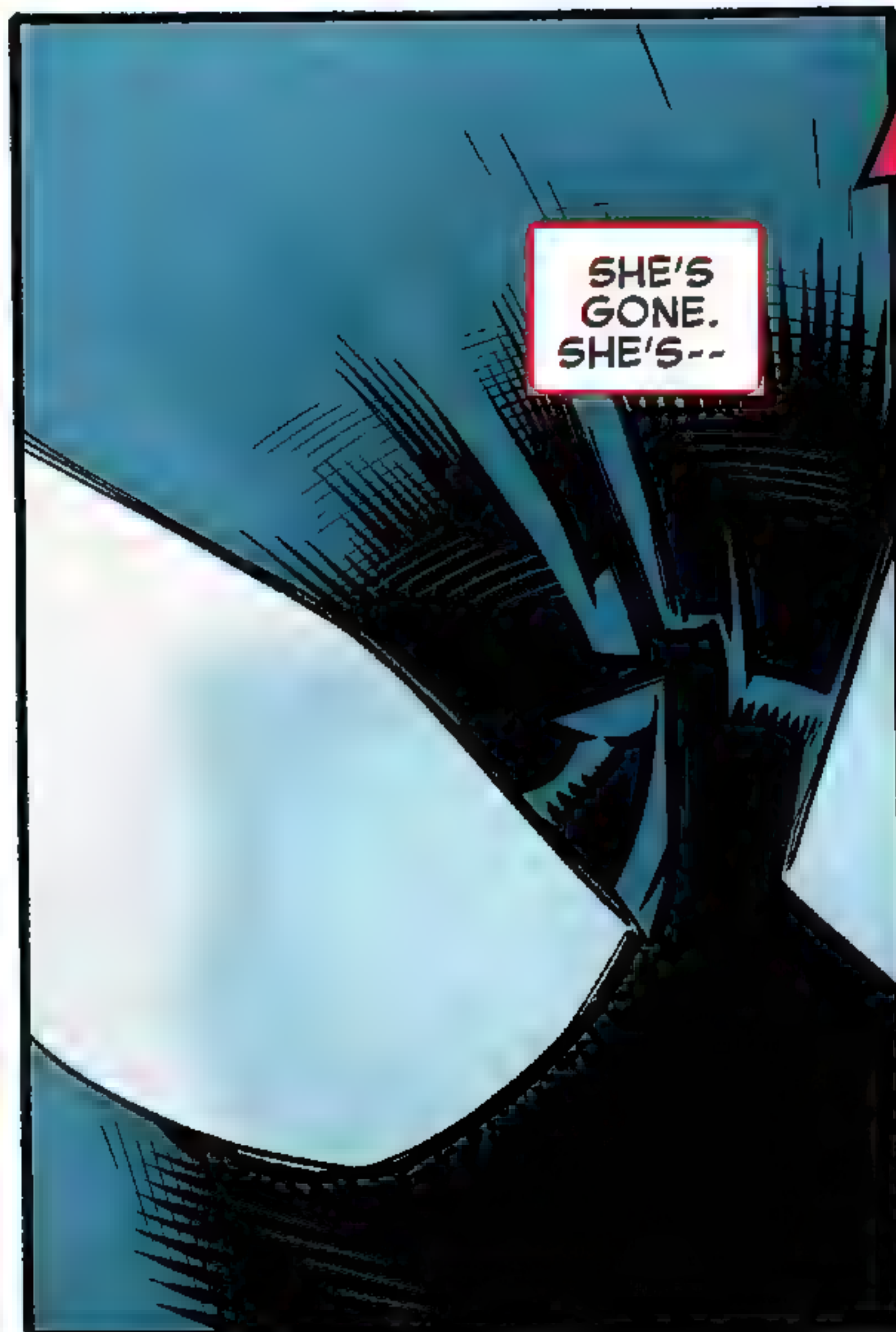
THE PAST NOW.

BECAUSE I WAS TOO LATE...



**NOT AGAIN.
PLEASE--NOT AGAIN.**

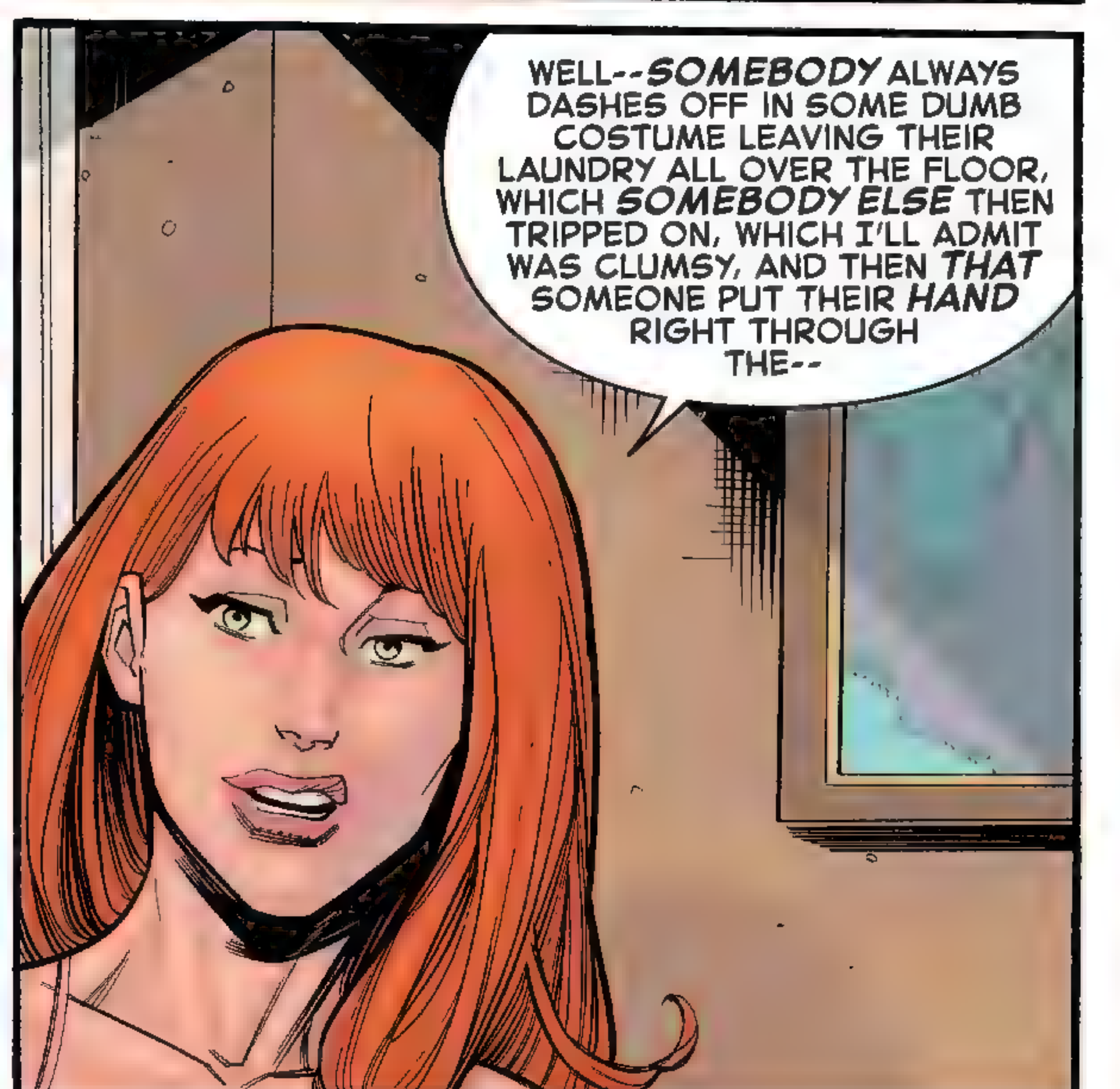
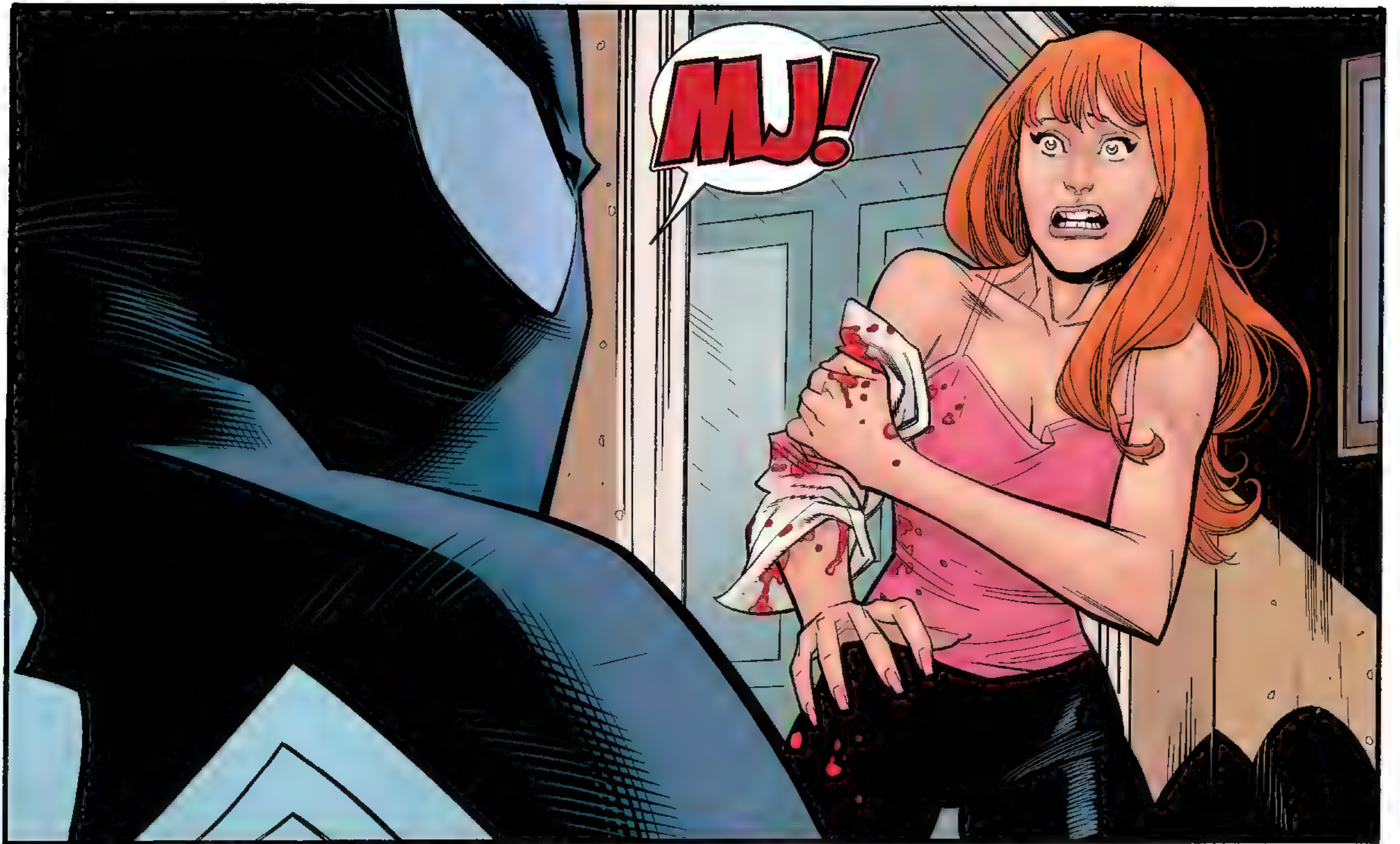
BUT I CAN SENSE THIS...

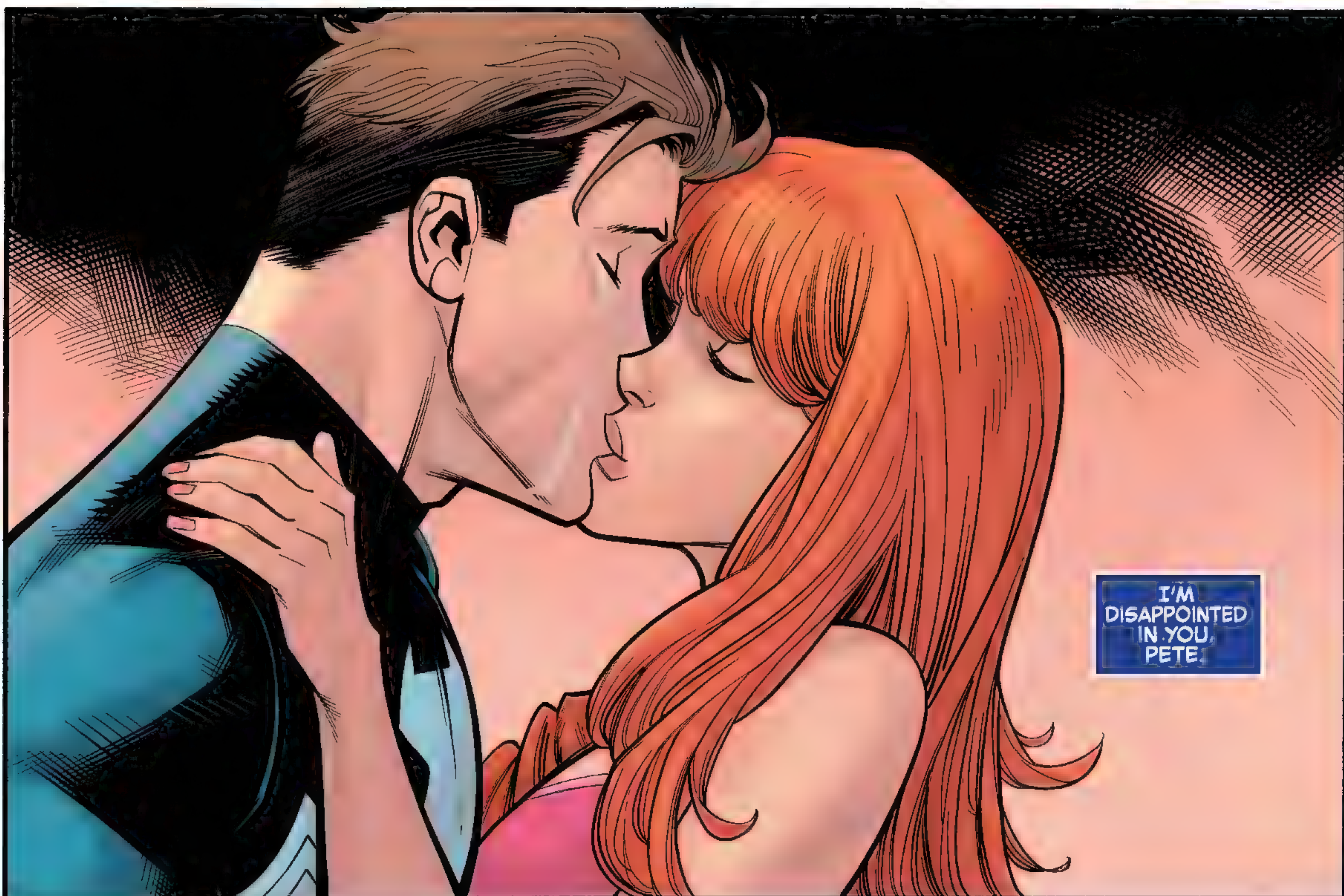
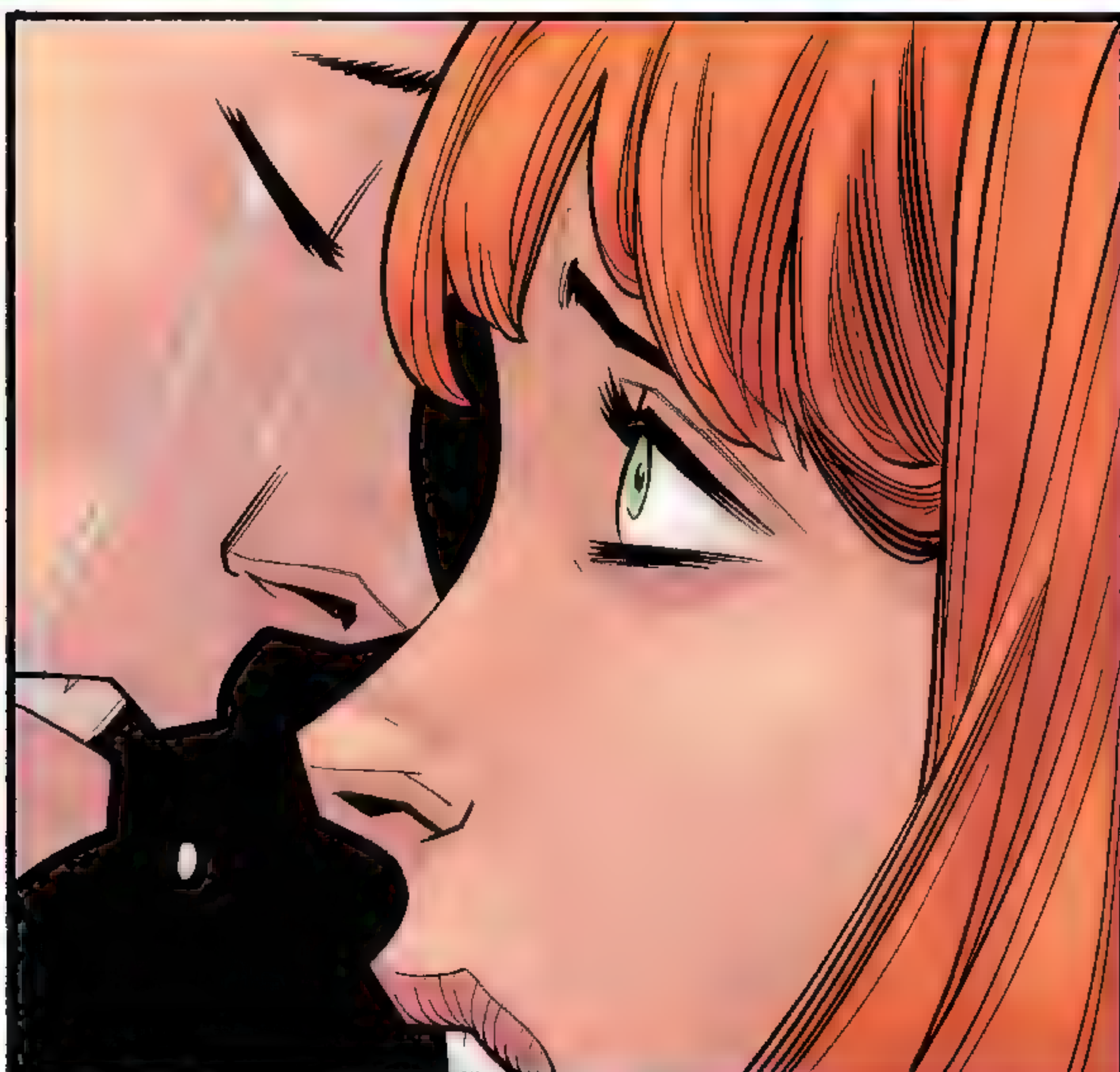
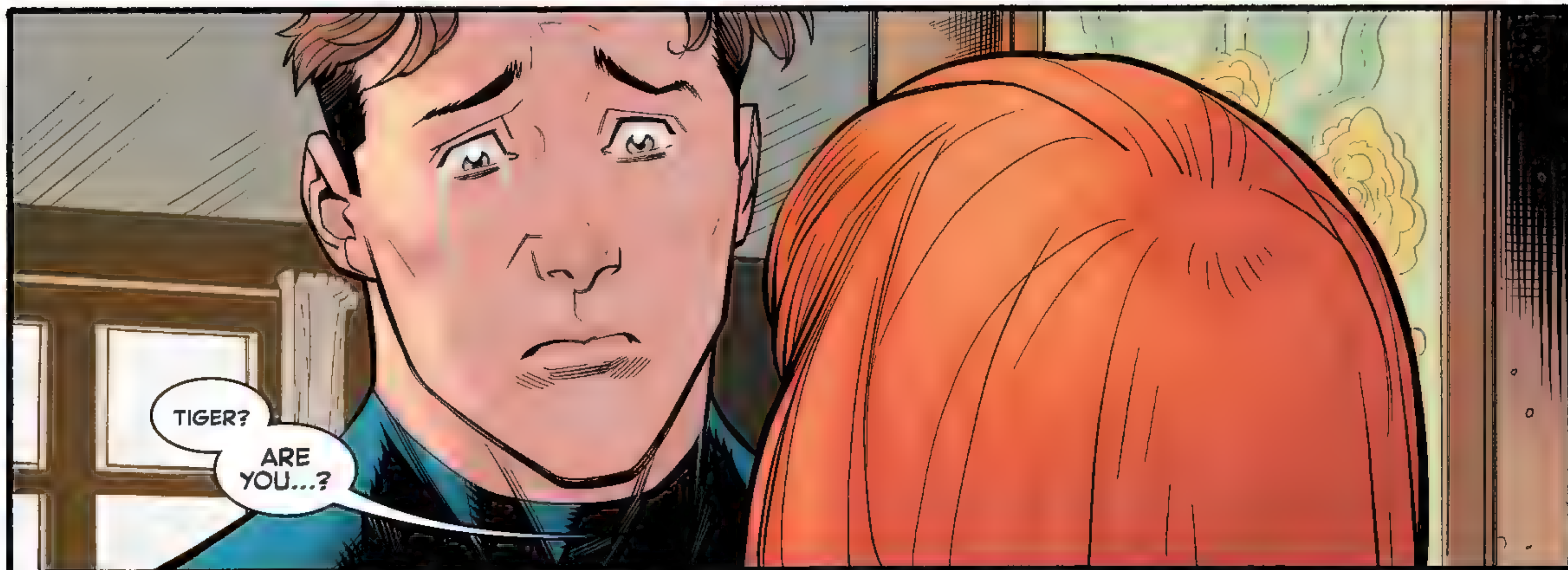


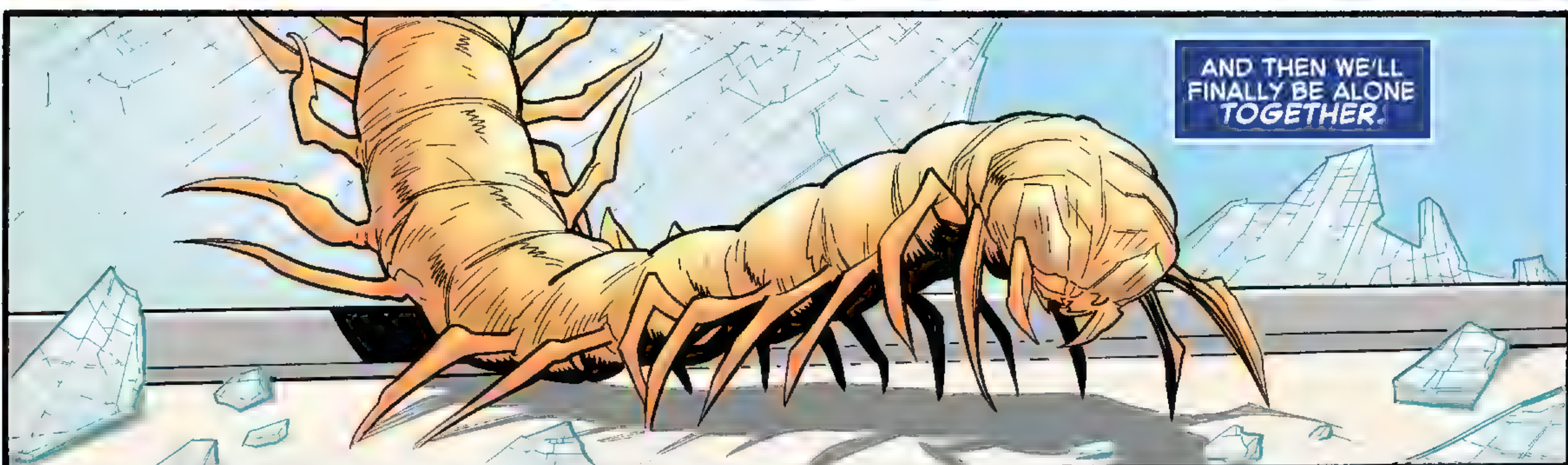
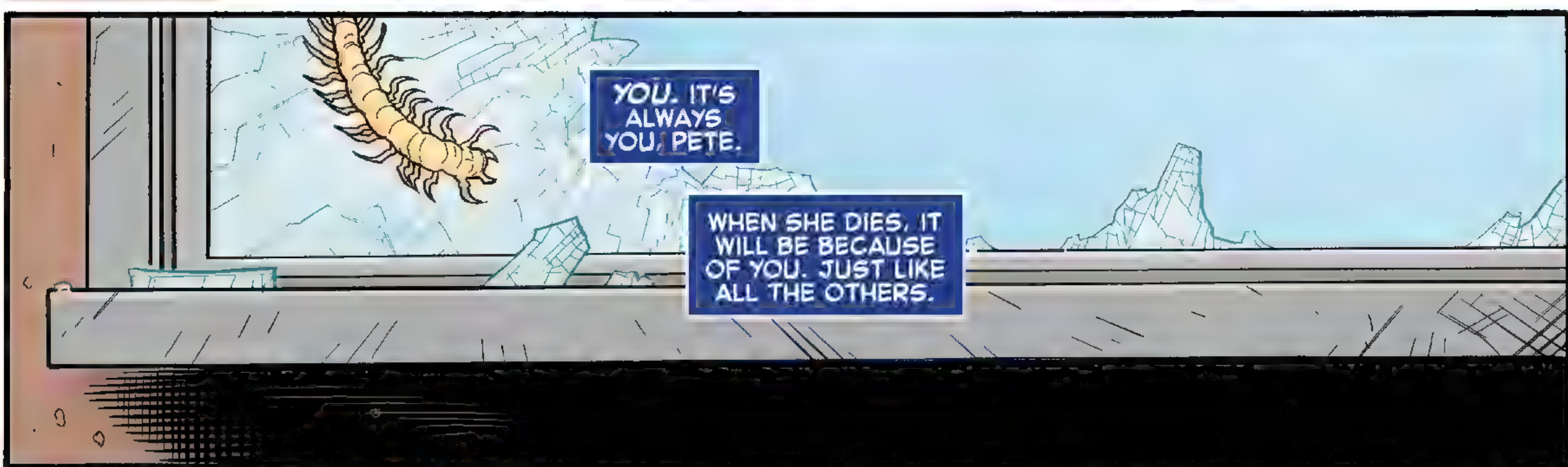
**SHE'S GONE.
SHE'S--**



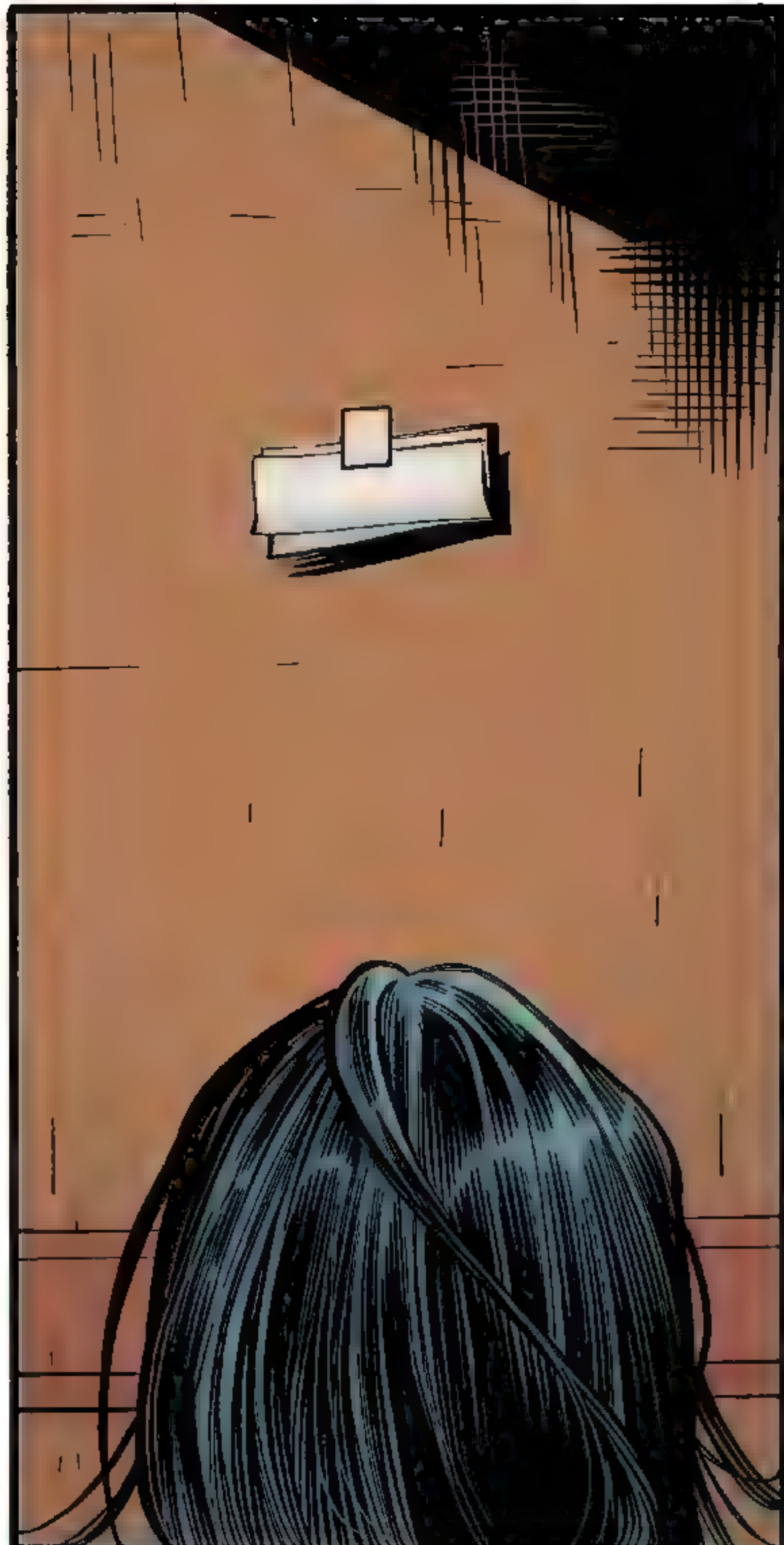
AAAAAAHHH!

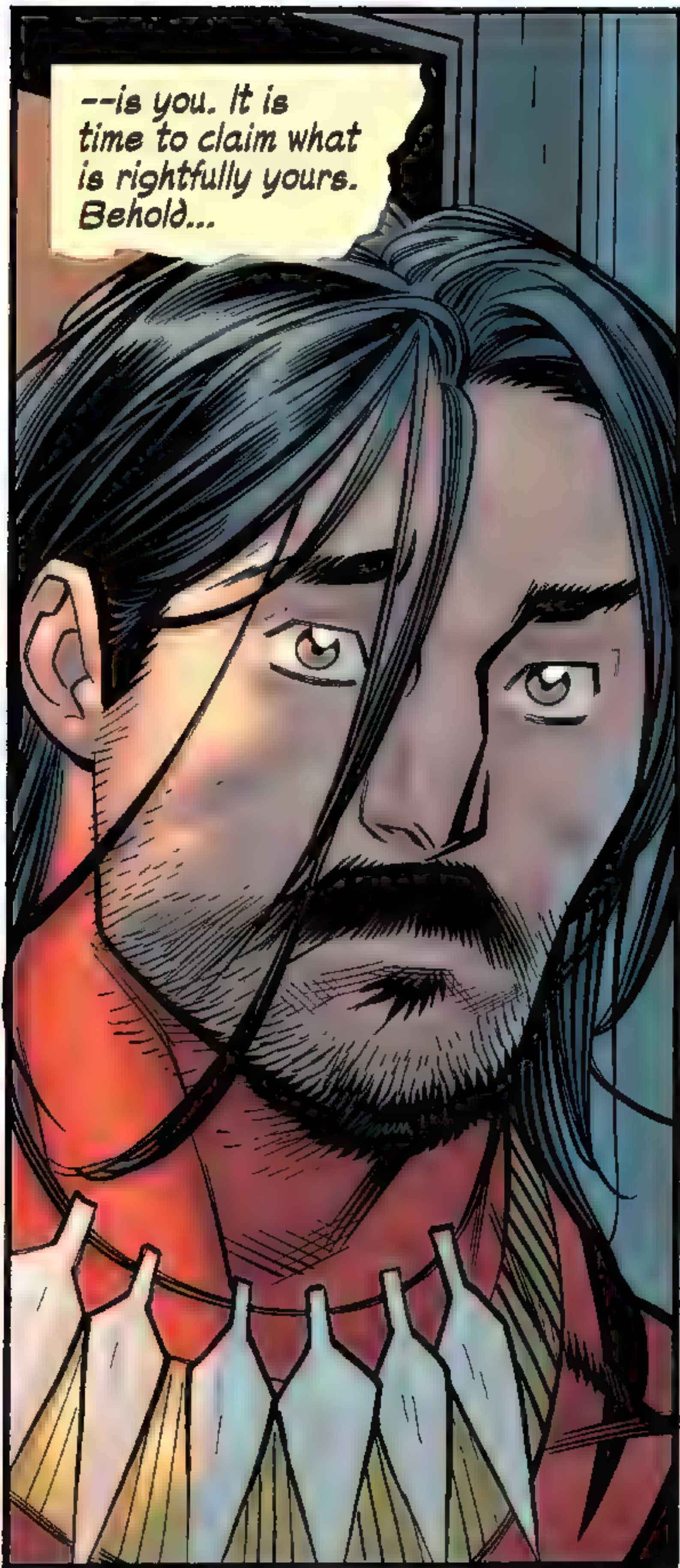












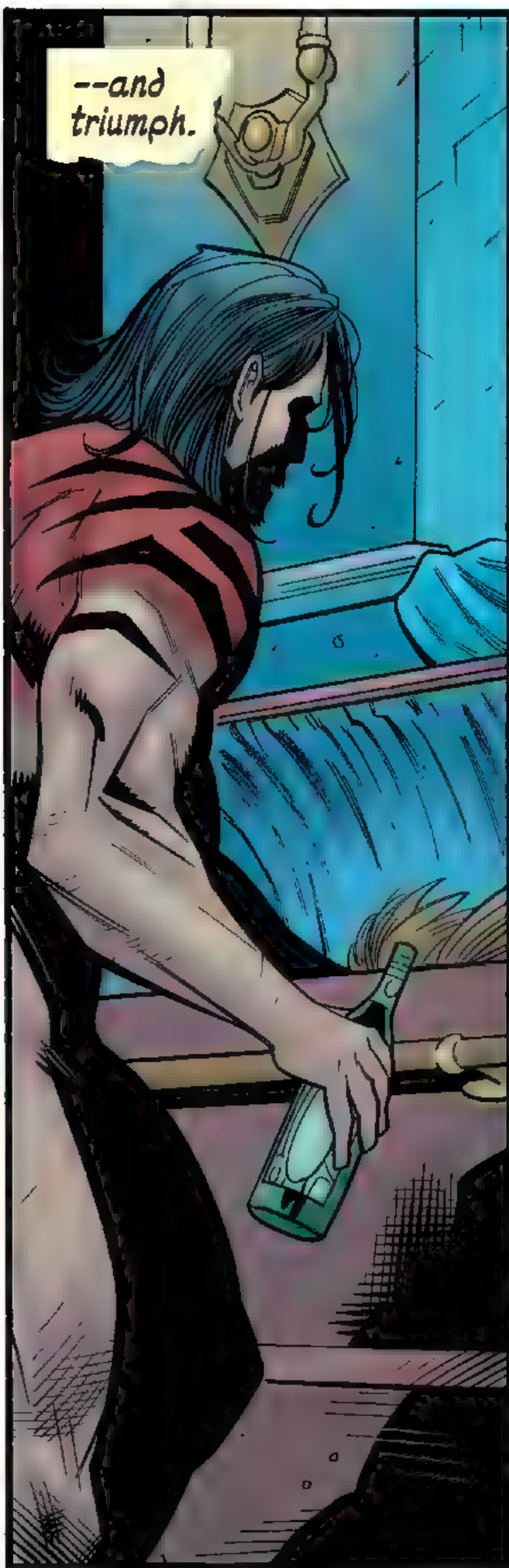
--is you. It is time to claim what is rightfully yours. Behold...



This is your birthright.



Know that in this moment, I feel no regret. Nor should you. Only pride--



--and triumph.



You see, we are immortal.



I have called you son.

And for a time, that was true.



But now it is time to become something else.



You were forged in fire, born in blood.



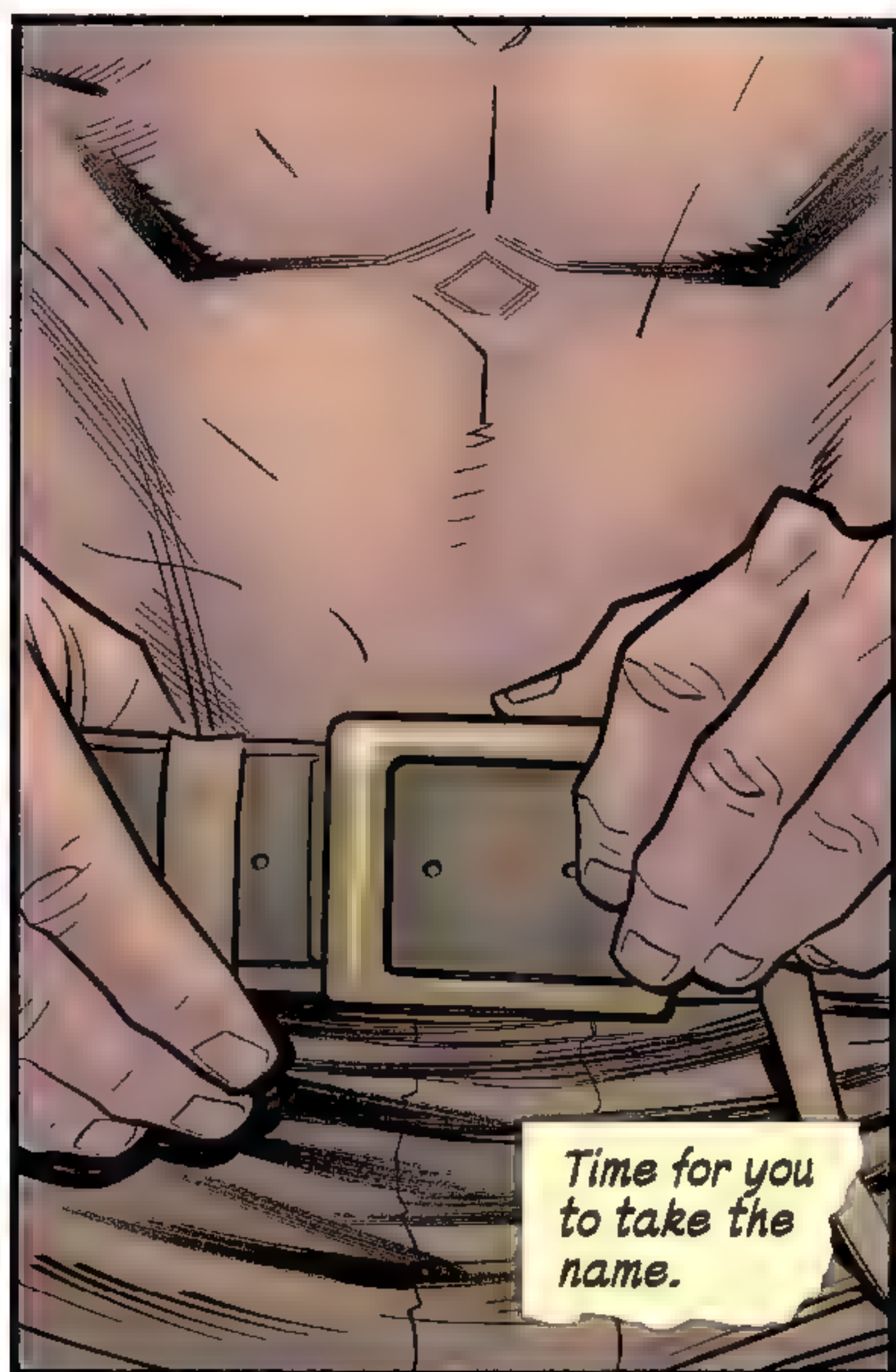
My spirit made flesh. More than my child--



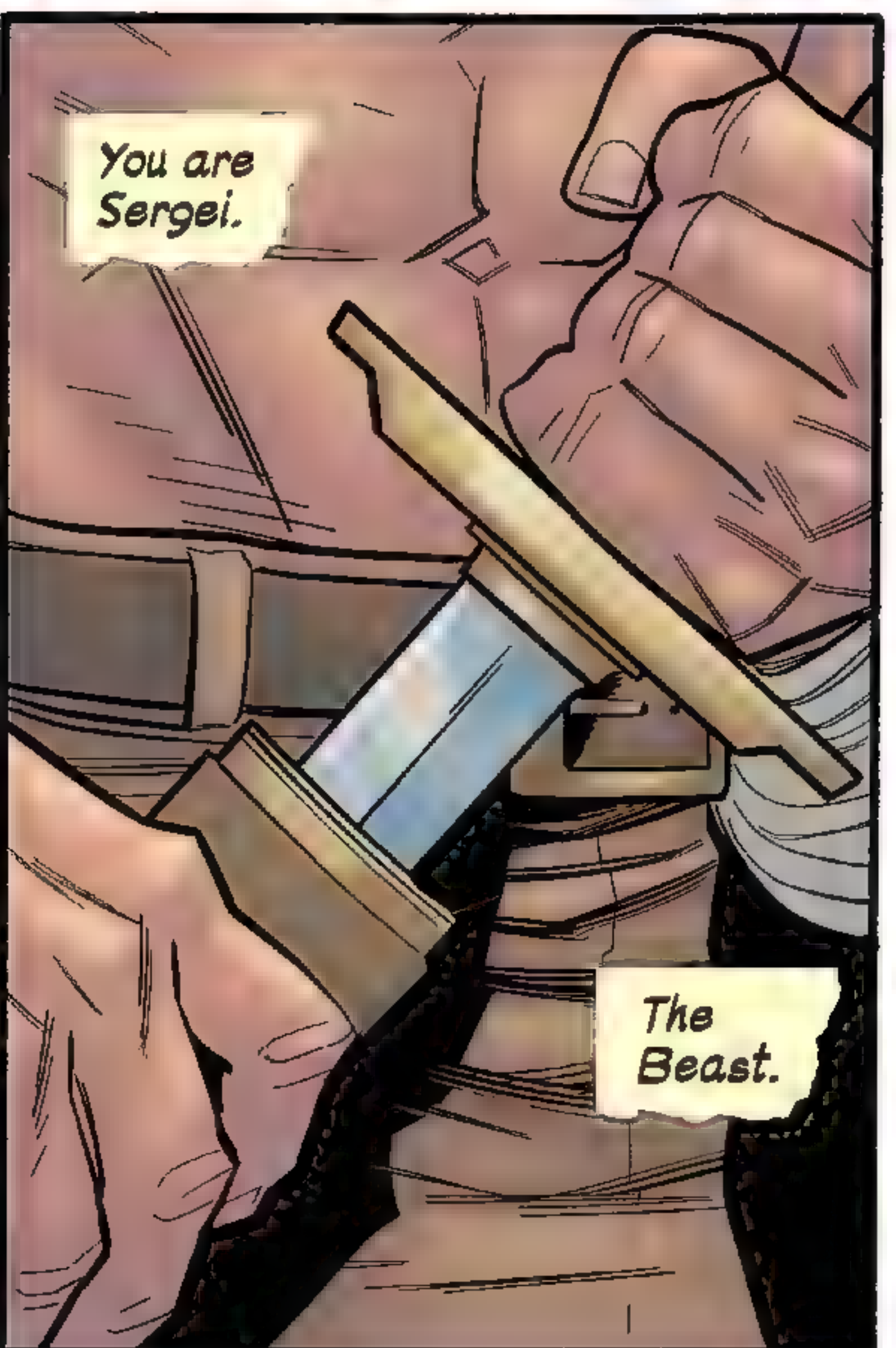
You are me, and I am you. One and the same now.



It is time for you to claim it.



Time for you to take the name.



You are Sergei.

The Beast.



You are Kravinoff.

The Superior.

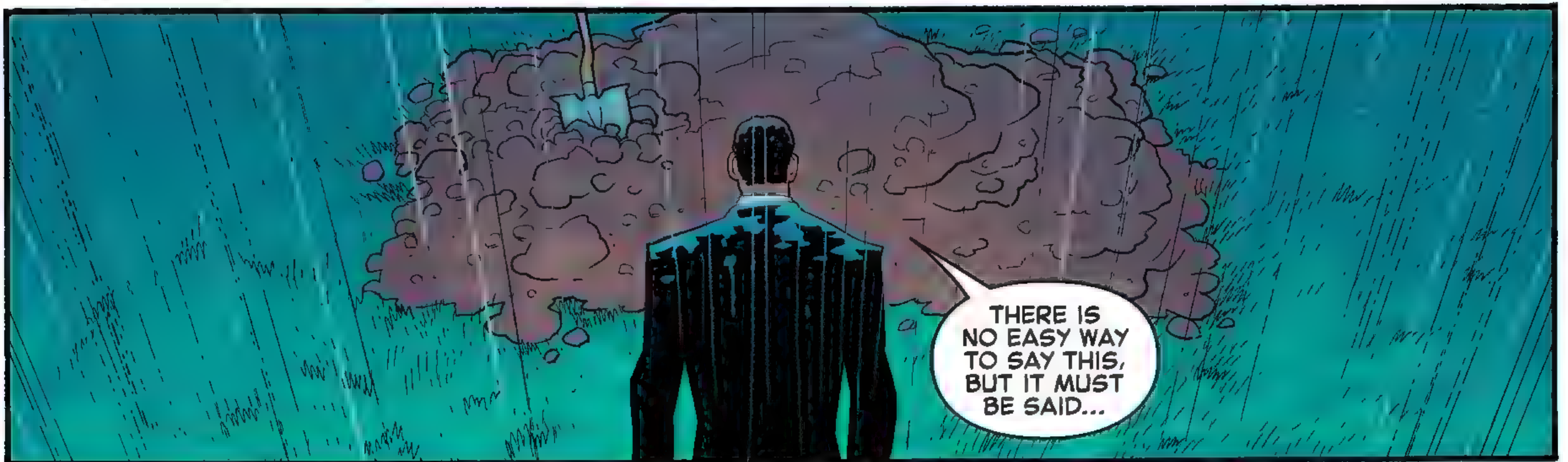
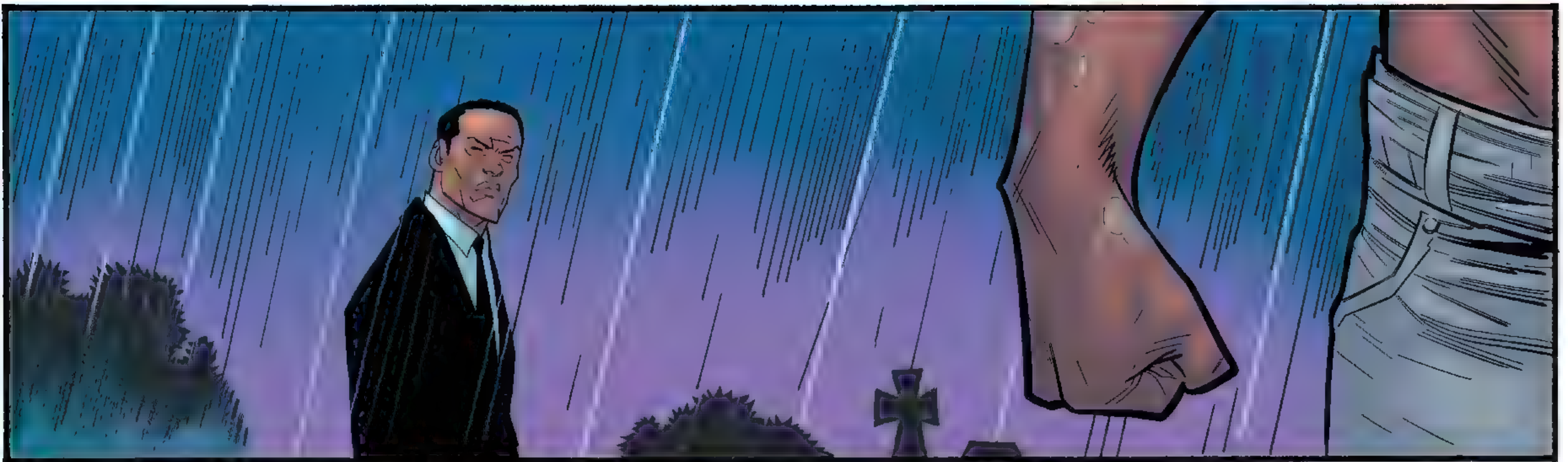
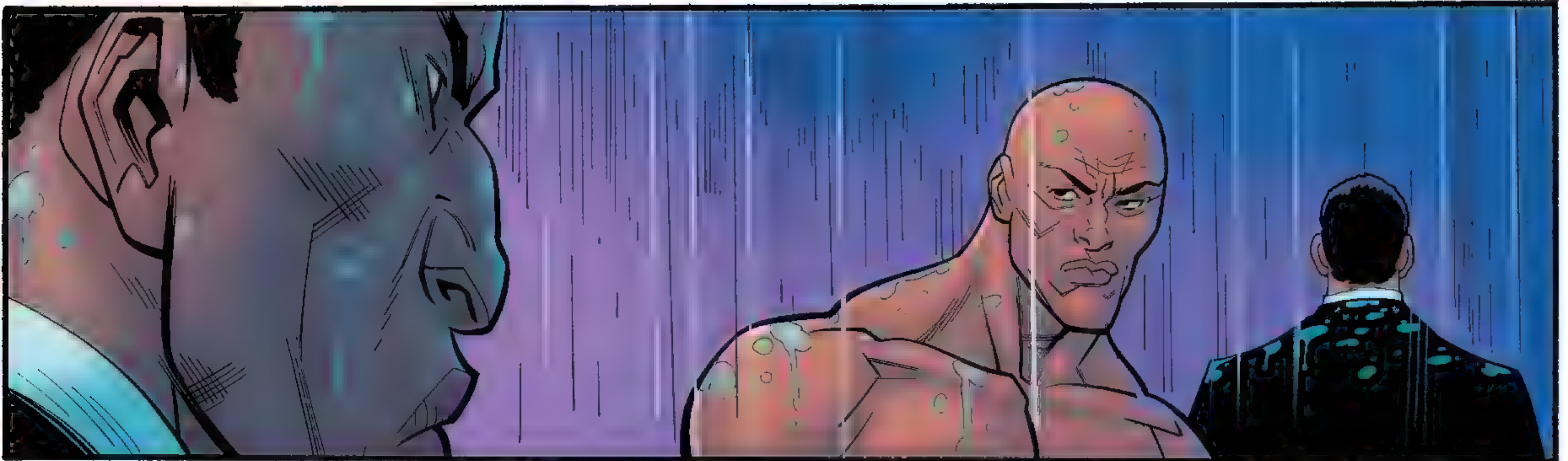
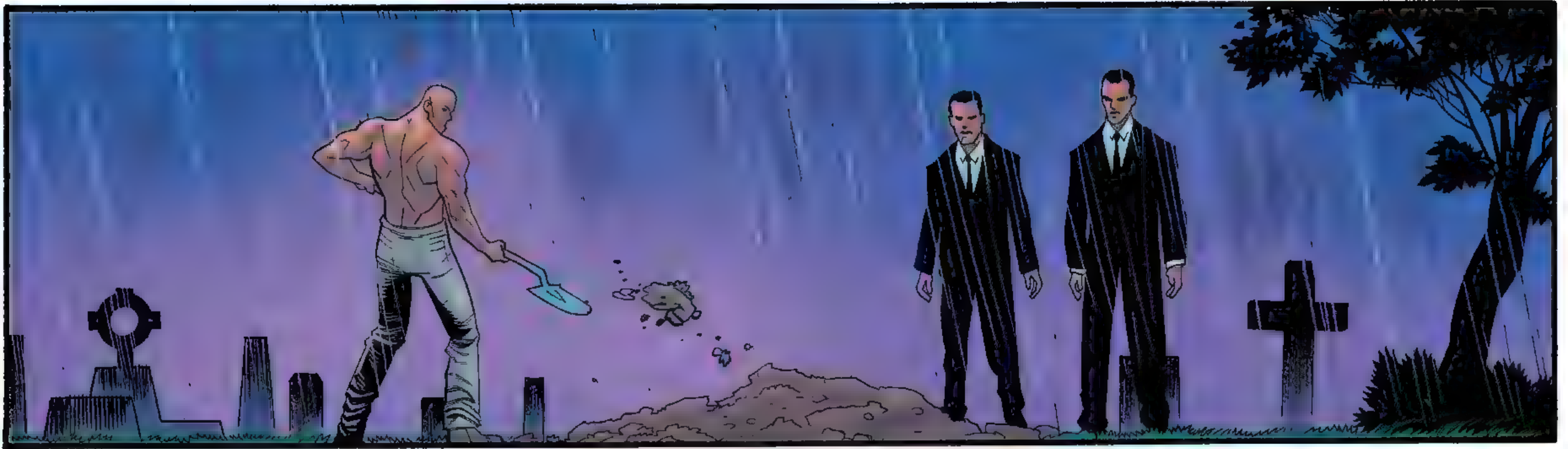


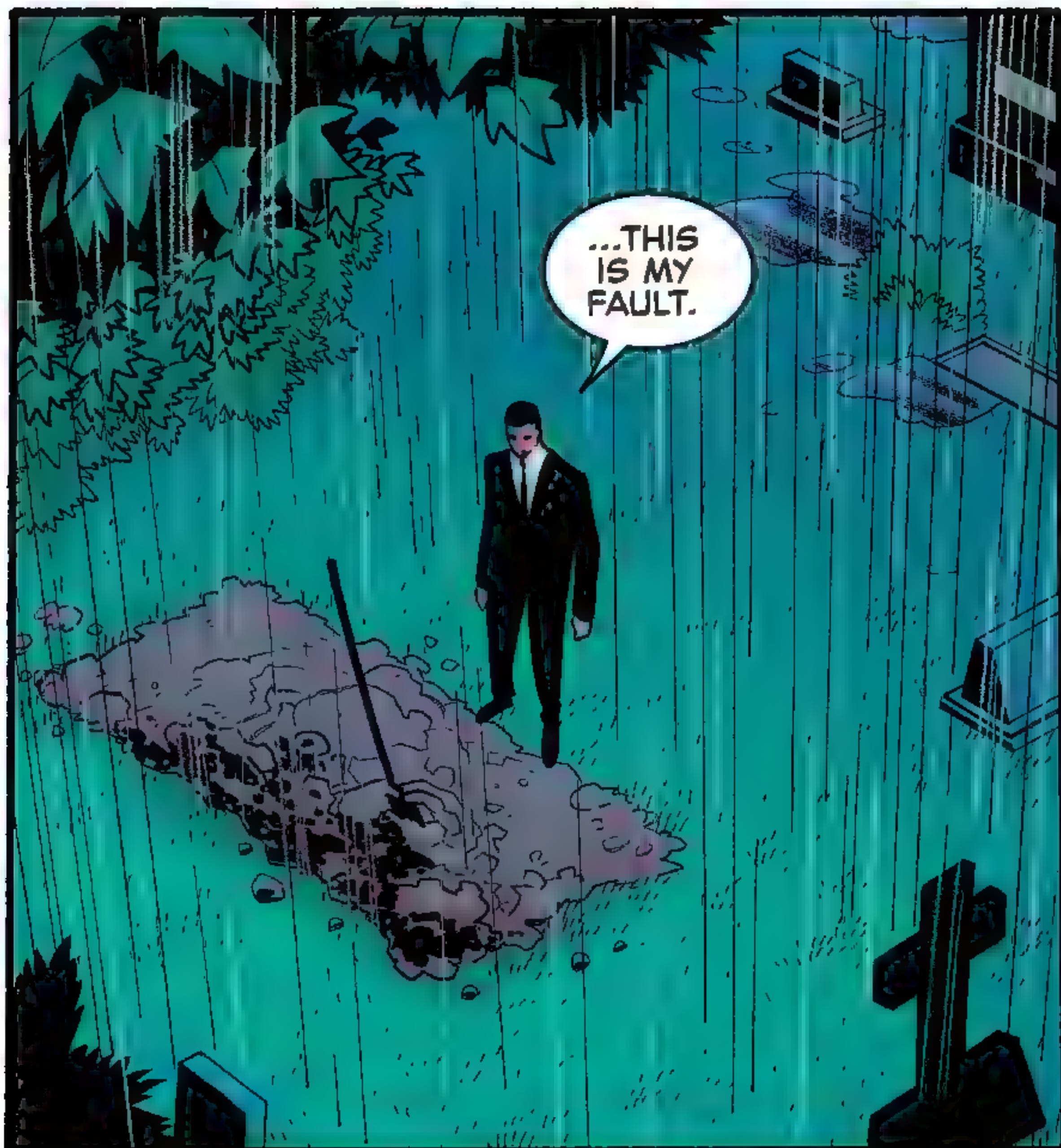
From this moment on--



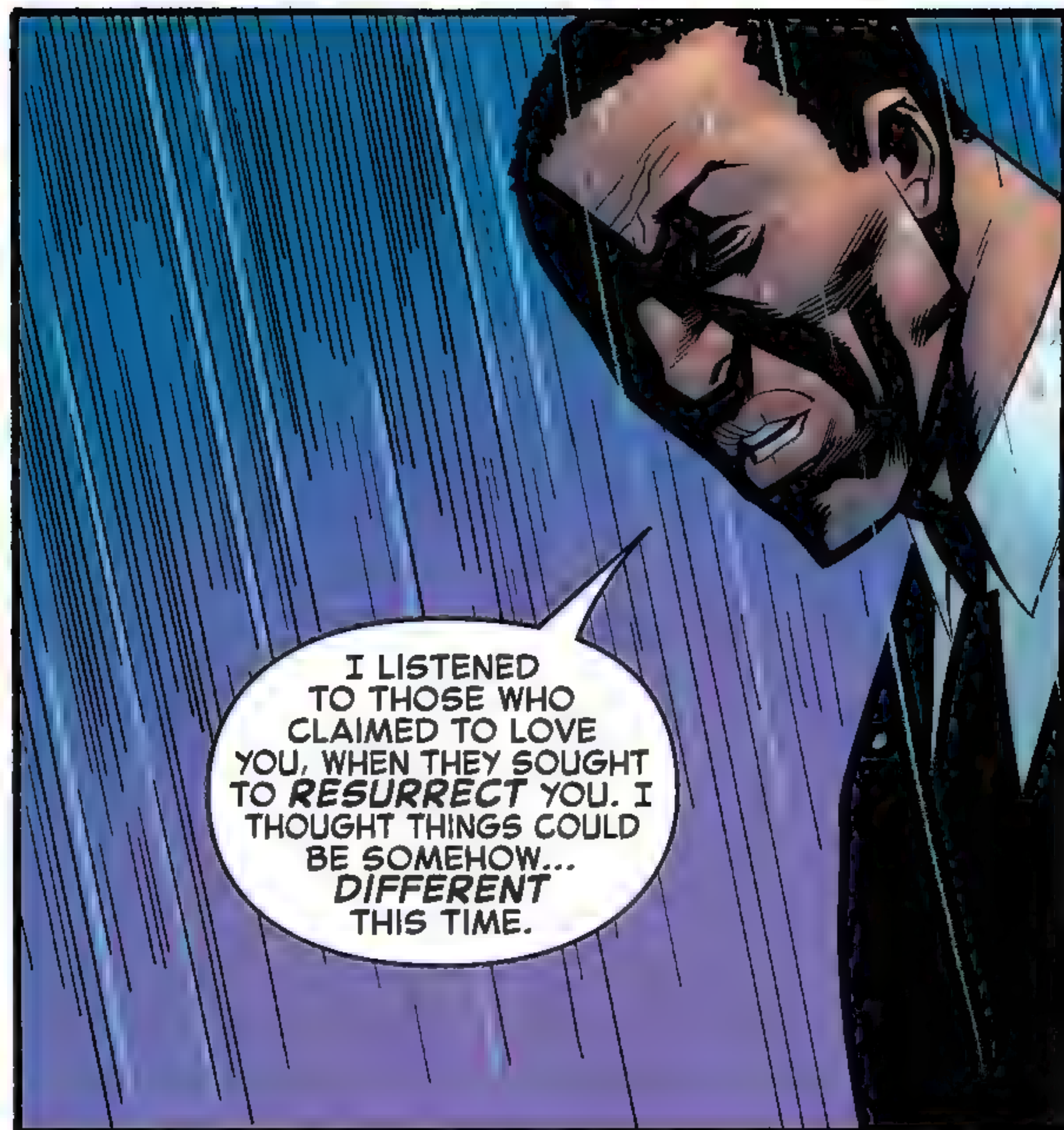
You are **Kraven**
the Hunter.

The hunt
begins.

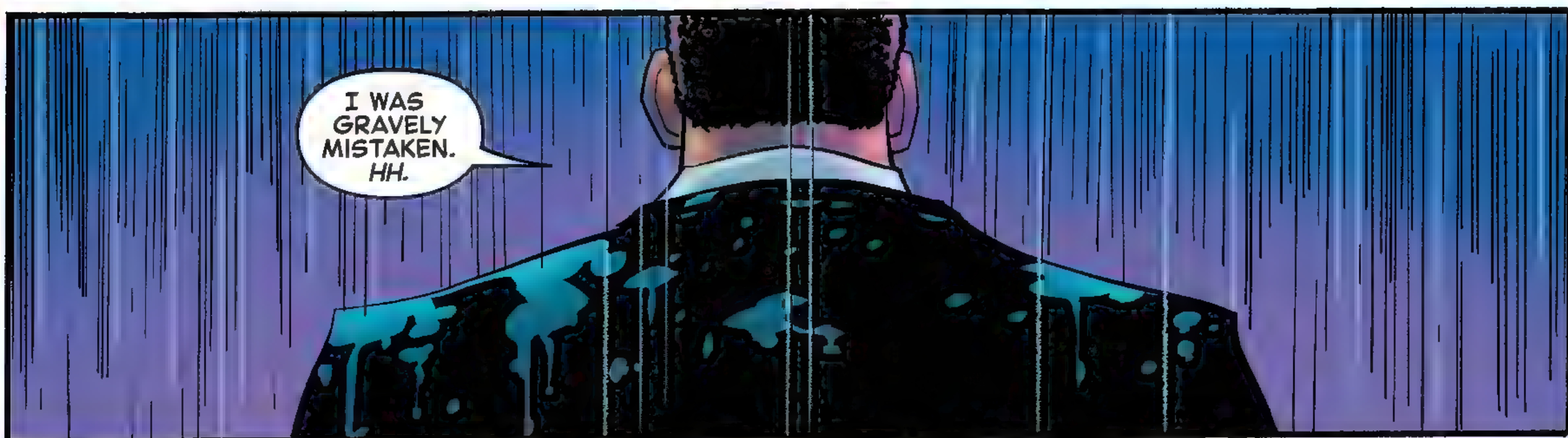




...THIS
IS MY
FAULT.



I LISTENED
TO THOSE WHO
CLAIMED TO LOVE
YOU, WHEN THEY SOUGHT
TO **RESURRECT** YOU. I
THOUGHT THINGS COULD
BE SOMEHOW...
DIFFERENT
THIS TIME.



I WAS
GRAVELY
MISTAKEN.
HH.



BUT I
CAN PROMISE
YOU THIS--

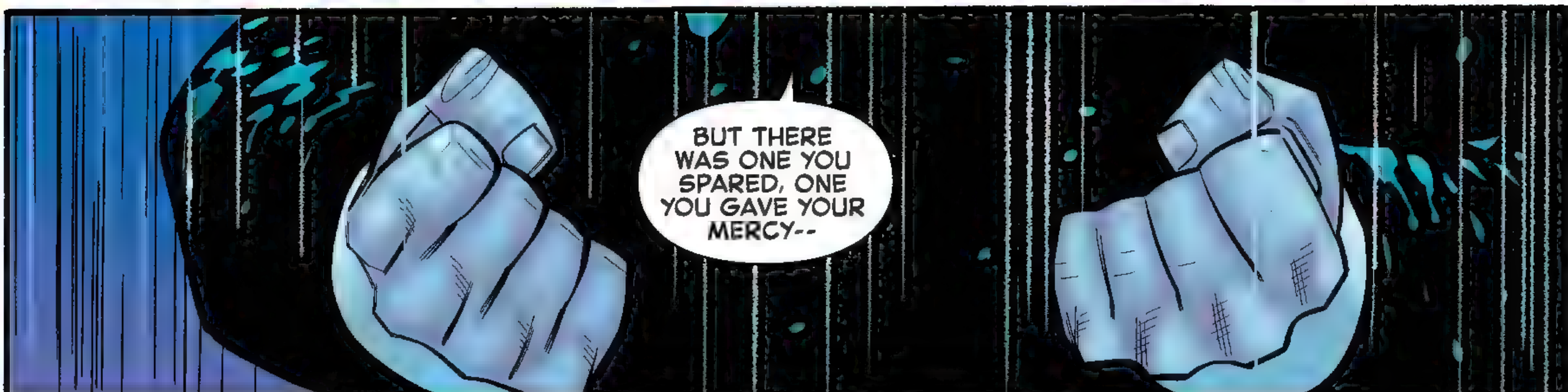
I WILL NOT
FAIL YOU AGAIN,
SERGEI. YOUR WISHES
WILL BE HONORED. SO
LONG AS I LIVE, YOU
WILL KNOW YOUR
REST.



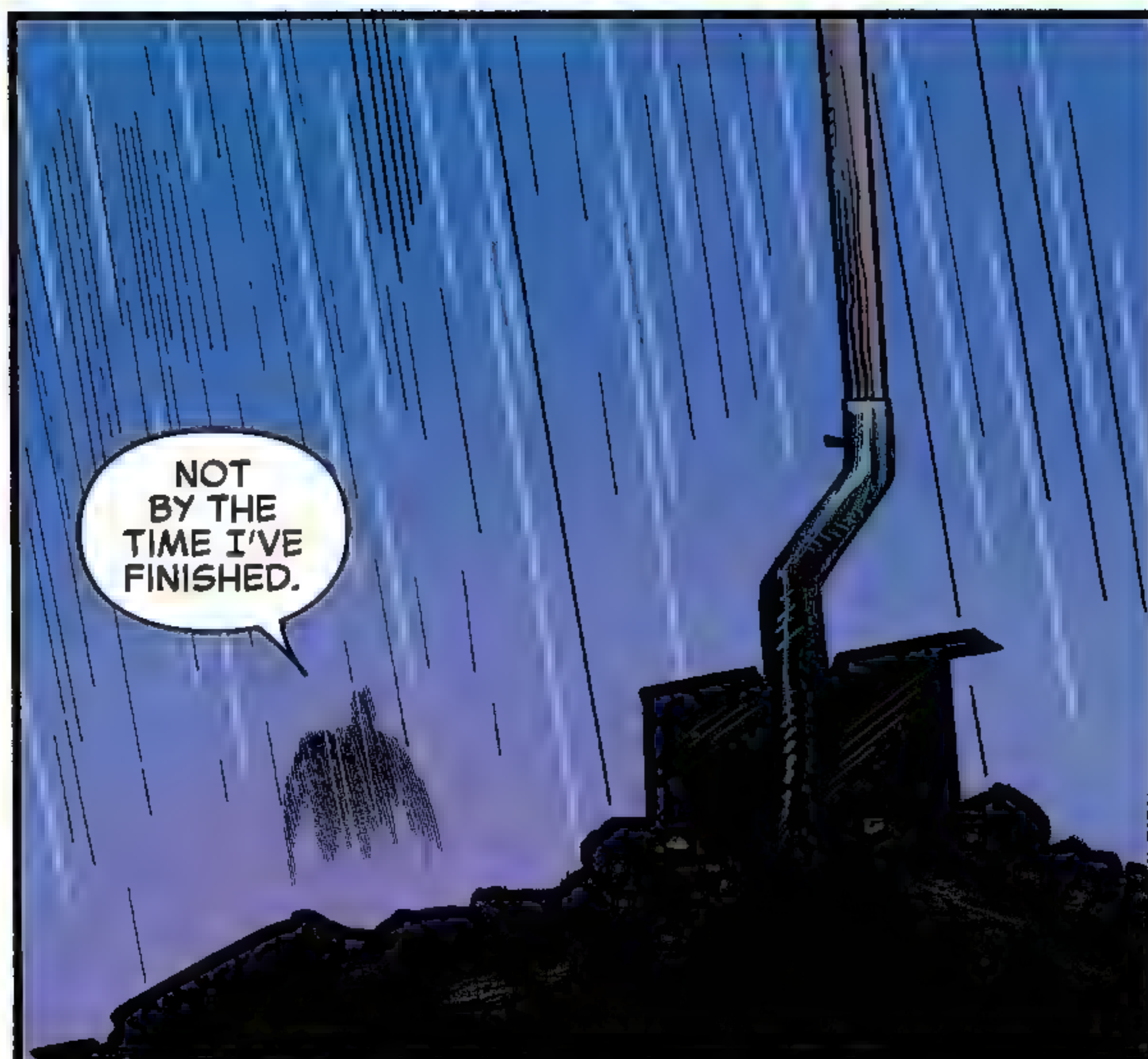
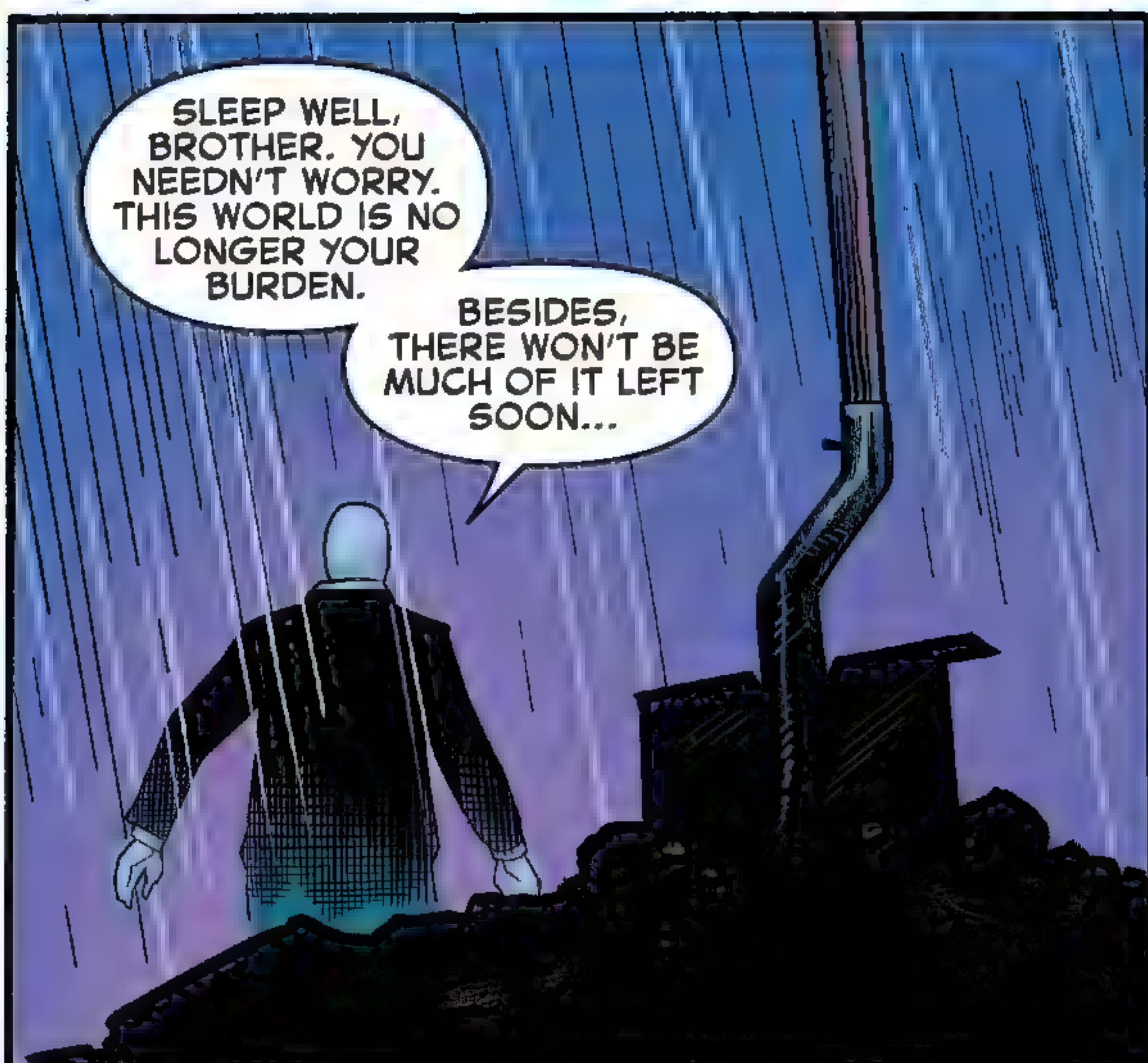
IT'S THE
LEAST I CAN
DO, AFTER ALL.
CONSIDERING
WHAT YOU DID
FOR ME.



YOU
COMBED THE
ENDS OF THE EARTH
TO TRAP ALL THOSE
WHO TOOK THE NAME
OF A BEAST. LEFT
THEM TO BE HUNTED
HERE.



BUT THERE
WAS ONE YOU
SPARED, ONE
YOU GAVE YOUR
MERCY--



TO BE CONTINUED...



#17-22 CONNECTING VARIANTS BY LEINIL FRANCIS YU & SUNNY GHO



ORIGINAL CONCEPT SKETCH BY LEINIL FRANCIS YU





#20 VARIANT BY MARK BAGLEY, JOHN DELL & JUSTIN PONSOR

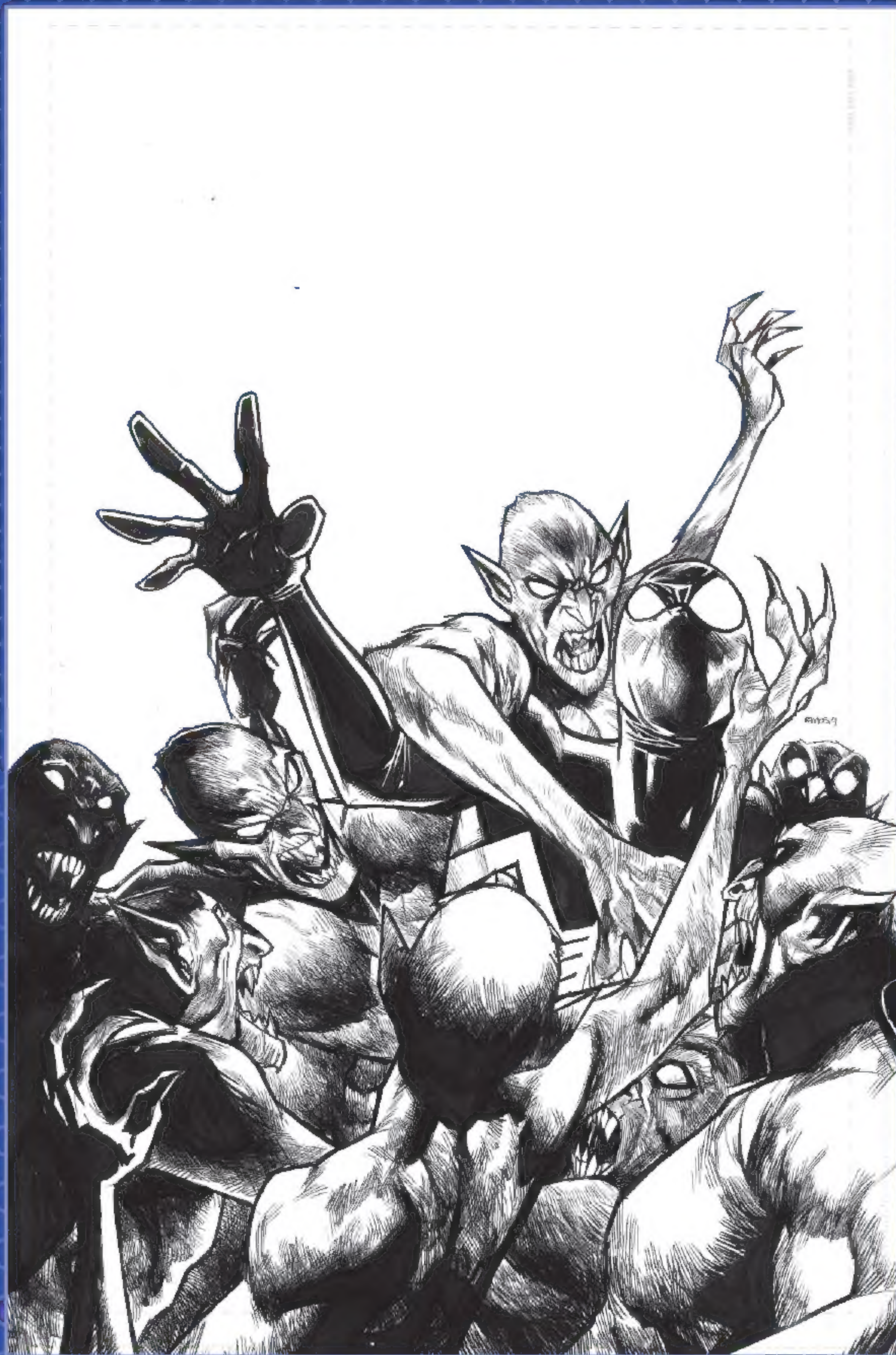


#21 VARIANT BY CASANOVAS









#21 COVER ART BY HUMBERTO RAMOS



#22 COVER ART BY HUMBERTO RAMOS

“It’s an instant classic.”

— Comic Crusaders

WHEN KRAVEN RETURNS, ***SPIDER-MAN BECOMES THE HUNTED!***

SERGEI KRAVINOFF AND HIS MINIONS have been kidnapping animal-themed superhumans for months, and they need one more to complete the collection: the Spider. But what does Kraven want with all of them?! In Central Park, the prey is let loose, and the hunt begins — but Kraven isn’t the one in pursuit. Who has Spidey in their crosshairs? The Lizard has a target on his back, too — but he has a truly terrifying plan of his own! Peter Parker will find himself in a horrible situation, but there are lives — innocent and otherwise — at stake, and...well...he’s Spider-Man. When it comes to the big showdown, you have no idea how this one will go down!



COLLECTING **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (2018) #16-23, #16.HU AND #18.HU-20.HU** — BY NICK SPENCER, RYAN OTTLEY, ALBERTO ALBURQUERQUE, HUMBERTO RAMOS, GERARDO SANDOVAL, IBAN COELLO, KEN LASHLEY, CHRIS BACHALO, CORY SMITH, TYLER CROOK, CLIFF RATHBURN, VICTOR OLAZABA, VICTOR NAVA, MARK MORALES, WAYNE FAUCHER, LIVESAY, JAIME MENDOZA, TIM TOWNSEND, AL VEY, LAURA MARTIN, BRIAN REBER, CARLOS LOPEZ, EDGAR DELGADO, ERICK ARCINIEGA AND NATHAN FAIRBAIRN.



MARVEL

